

## **Be At Peace**

### **10-18-20**

Paul's letter to the Romans follows the pattern of many of his letters. It begins with a deep theological discourse on the nature of the law, of the purpose of the death of Christ, and our salvation. In chapter 12 he begins discussing the practical applications of the Christian life. A big part of the theme is living peaceably with others. This is summarized in verse 18: If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

What does it mean to live at peace with others? Jesus made this a main theme in the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6). He stated in Mark 9:50 that being the salt of the earth referred to our living in peace with others. Jesus told us too that Peacemakers were to be called sons of God. Thus, our living in peace with each other and with those in the world around us is a key part of our walk in the Way.

Paul continues in Romans 12 to tell the Roman Christians not to seek vengeance. In the world they lives in, this command might be hard to fulfill. They would soon be persecuted by the government around them, and many of their neighbors might become their enemies. Yet Paul is even bolder to process into chapter thirteen and tell them to submit to the governing authorities.

Being at peace might be seen from this context as living at peace within the relationships that define our lives. Our relationships with our brethren certainly is in consideration, but it our relationship with our secular leaders is also in play, then we must conclude that all relationships are part of this command.

Husbands and wives must live in peace with one another. Peter demanded that husbands dwell with understanding. Wives are to have a submissive spirit. Children are to honor and obey their parents. Parents are to nurture their children. Employees are to serve, while employers are to be caretakers of their employees. These commands (found in Ephesians 5-6, Colossians 3-4, and 1 Peter 2-3) are the basis of the Christian Way.

Being at peace means we need to learn to apply skills such as forgiveness and gentleness. This speaks again to the nature of seeking vengeance. We are to trust that God will protect and watch over us. IT is hard to put such trust in God, but if we are to walk by faith, this is the nature of that walk.

Be at peace with others. Seek the things that make peace. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). Desire to live peaceable lives. This is the way of Christ in this world.