

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19 (NIV)

Finger Pointing

This world is not a peaceful place. This world is filled with division and strife and acrimony of every kind. When will the destructive debate and angry finger pointing ever end? It is easy to get drawn into the conflict. It is alluring to join in the battle. One side is always right. The other side is clearly wrong. One side is good and has the best intentions. One side is evil and filled with dark and disturbing motives. Which side am I on? I'm always on the good side. My intentions are nothing but the best. Who is fooling who?

That is a very good question to ask yourself. Yes, I know that it is a very good question to ask myself. **Why is that?** I so easily join the debate. I am so willing to be drawn into the battle. Winning becomes the goal. Destroying the thoughts and opinions of others who are so obviously misguided and deluded is the plan. Guess what. **What?** Nobody wins these destructive debates and angry conflicts. **You are incorrect at this point.** Yes, I suspected that. No person wins these destructive debates and angry conflicts. **Now, you are correct.** The devil and all his evil wins when people from different perspectives try to destroy each other with their words and actions. **Now, you are on to something very important. What has happened to your ability to be my witness in the world when you engage in angry debate and ugly finger pointing?** My ability to be your witness in the world vanishes in an instant. No one sees the light of your life flowing in and through me. No one sees your kindness and mercy and love through my life. All they see is an angry and combative, debate filled me. There is no joy in that. There is no hope and life in that. **No, there is not. It is good that you see this angry and combative, debate filled world, that you live in, for what it is.**

So, let me ask you a question. Go ahead, I'm listening. **What do you want your life to be about? Do you want to join in debates and win conflicts or do you want to be a bright and shining witness for me in the world? Do you want to win arguments or bear fruit for my kingdom and glory?** My answer to your questions is obvious. I want to be a bright and shining witness in the world that bears fruit for your kingdom and glory. **Then leave the debating and arguing and finger pointing behind. Make every effort to do what leads to peace. Use your words to encourage and edify others. Love and lift others up with your words.** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, steer me clear of the lack of peace and harmony in this world. Free me from the none stop destructive debating that goes on in society today. Help me to make every effort to do what leads to peace. Help me to encourage others with my words and actions. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Leads To Peace*

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

NIV Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Makes For Peace*

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

ESV Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Aim For Harmony*

So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

NLT Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Make For Peace*

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

NKJV Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Makes For Peace*

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

NRSV Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Getting Along*

So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words;

MSG Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Makes For Harmony*

So let us then definitely aim for and eagerly pursue what makes for harmony and for mutual upbuilding (edification and development) of one another.

AMP Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Aim For Harmony*

In this way aim for harmony in the church, and try to build each other up.

TLB Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Make For Peace*

So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

NASB Romans 14:19

Becoming Like Christ *Makes Peace*

So let us try to do what makes peace and helps one another.

NCV Romans 14:19

Leads To Peace

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Romans 14:19

In Context: *Read Romans 14*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, steer me clear of the lack of peace and harmony in this world. Free me from the none stop destructive debating that goes on in society today. Help me to make every effort to do what leads to peace. Help me to encourage others with my words and actions. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What are tricks and traps that will hinder your ability to bring peace and edification to others?

What is most likely to draw you into what is neither peaceful nor edifying?

When have you won an argument or debate but lost the ability to bring peace and edification to others?

How are you making every effort to do what leads to peace and edification of others?

When have you been able to use your words and actions to do what led to peace and edification?

How is bringing peace and edification to others helped you to be a powerful witness for Christ?

What fruit has your life born as you have brought peace and edification to others?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Make every effort to do what leads to peace and edification in the turbulent world of today.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will help you to bear fruit for Him as you do what leads to peace and edification.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you are making every effort to do what leads to peace.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

My you make every effort to do what leads to peace.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will make every effort to do what leads to peace.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what can I do today that will lead to peace.
