

PEACE OUT
Practical Faith – Part 7

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are the ones that God will call his children.” Matthew 5:9

KEY OBSERVATION #1: ALL relationships have moments when they have to be guided back to a HEALTHY place. Because the quality of our life is only as good as the quality of our closets RELATIONSHIPS.

KEY OBSERVATION #2: Happiness comes from peace with God, peace with self and peace with OTHERS. So, when we have a lack of peace about any relationship it will ultimately rob us of PEACE in our own life.

“13 If you are truly a wise and understanding person, it will be seen in your life by the good deeds you do out of the humility that always comes from wisdom. James 3:13

- The first mark of real wisdom is seen in your RELATIONSHIPS.
- The second mark of real wisdom is HUMILITY.

14 But if in your heart, you are selfish, jealous, or bitter toward others, don't think you're wise, because it's a lie! 15 That's never wisdom from God; instead, it's from the world, and your unspiritual nature, and from the Devil himself! For whenever there is envy or selfish ambition, you'll always find confusion, unrest, disharmony, rebellion, and every kind of evil. 17 Real wisdom is pure, then peaceful, then considerate. It is not defensive, full of mercy and helpful, impartial, and free from hypocrisy. 18 When peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice.” James 3:14-18

SEED #1: If I'm wise, I won't COMPROMISE the truth.

“Real wisdom is first of all pure.” James 3:17

“The Lord delights in pure words.” Proverbs 15:26

“God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and to tell it in love.” Ephesians 4:15 (MSG)

SEED #2: If I'm wise, I won't ANTAGONIZE your anger.

“Real wisdom is...peaceful.” James 3:17

“Any fool can start arguments: the wise thing is to stay out of them.” Proverbs 20:3

“A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes.” Proverbs 14:29

Three things to avoid that cause arguments in relationships:

1. COMPARING
2. CONDEMNING
3. CONTRADICTING

SEED #3: If I'm wise, I won't MINIMIZE your feelings.

“Real wisdom is...considerate.” James 3:17

“1 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it's written, ‘The insults of those who insulted you fell on me.’” Romans 15:1-3

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

SEED #4: If I'm wise, I won't CRITICIZE your suggestions.

“Real wisdom is...not defensive.” James 3:17

“A fool thinks he needs no advice, but a wise man listens to others.” Proverbs 12:15

SEED #5: If I'm wise, I won't EMPHASIZE your mistakes.

“Real wisdom is full of mercy and helpful.” James 3:17

“Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends.” Proverbs 17:9

"Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit." Proverbs 15:4

SEED #6: If I'm wise, I won't **DESPISE** our differences.

"Real wisdom is free from prejudice and hypocrisy." James 3:17

"...live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18c

"If it is possible... live at peace with everyone..." Romans 12:18a, c

KEY OBSERVATION #3: The **PURSUIT** of peace even without the promise of peace, is not a pointless pursuit.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

ACTION POINT #1: Before you worry about them, work on **YOU**.

ACTION POINT #2: What part do you **OWN**?

ACTION POINT #3: Can you go any **FURTHER**?

ACTION POINT #4: **DO** what you can do, nothing more, nothing less.

BOTTOM LINE: Peace is possible for you when you've done all **YOU** can do. Even if there's never peace in the relationship, you can have peace about the relationship.

PRACTICAL STEP: The step of **EMPATHY**.

- I take on the other persons **PERSPECTIVE** as truth.
- I suspend my own **JUDGEMENT**.
- I recognize their **EMOTION**.
- I **COMMUNICATE** that emotion.

"The secret is Christ himself; in Him, lie all God's hidden treasures of wisdom..." Colossians 2:3