



**“Dying in Peace”**  
**Romans 12:18**  
**Romans 12: Devoted to Service**

**Introduction:**

Our “biological destiny” vs. God numbering our days (Psalm 90:12).

Our ultimate plan is to not leave this earth with unfinished business.

Romans 14:19 “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

There is no dying in peace without living in peace and spending our days being a peacemaker.

Genesis 25:8 “Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people.” (cf. Gen. 35:29; Ju. 8:32; 1 Chron. 29:28; Lk. 2:29)

“It isn’t enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it. One must work at it.” (Eleanor Roosevelt)

**Romans 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people.”**

**Principle #1: Dying in peace begins with living in peace with God.**

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Philippians 4:7 “...the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

We are family: (Rom. 12:1 = brethren; Rom. 12:5 = members of one another; Rom. 12:10 = brotherly love; Rom. 12:13 = saints)

**Principle #2: Living in peace with others is not always possible.**

Proverbs 16:7 “When a person’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, He causes even his enemies to make peace with him.”

Romans 12:18 “If possible (Greek: *duantos* = within our power), so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people.”

- King Saul died before David and Saul reconciled (2 Sam. 1:19)
- David’s son, Absalom, died before the two of them could be at peace with one another (2 Sam. 18:33)

**Principle #3: Living in peace with others begins with us.**

Romans 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you (lit. comes from within you), be at peace with all people.”

Psalms 34:14 “Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.”

**Principle #4: Living in peace with others excludes no one.**

Romans 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people.” The Greek text should be read: “WITH ALL MEN be at peace.”

**A Recipe for Dying in Peace**

Mark 9:50 “Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”

Psalms 85:10 “Graciousness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”

**Extending the (Italian) Olive Branch**

**Questions of the Heart**

- What relationships have we abandoned as lost causes?
- Is it time to declare that the war is over as far as we are concerned?
- Is it time to reach in to the “peace-time” tree?
- With whom do we need to “extend an olive branch” today?

Colossians 3:15 “Let the peace of Christ (i.e., the one who is the Prince of Peace), to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful.”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:**

1. What is the unfinished business in your life that matters to God?
2. What does it mean to be a peacemaker?
3. How does living in peace with God affect living in peace with others?
4. How does one handle trying to live in peace with God when the other person refuses to reconcile?
5. With whom do you need to “extend an olive branch” today?
6. What did you get most out of this message?