

Peace Among Us

James 3:13-18 (NLT) *If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace-loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.*

Psalms 133:1-3 (NKJV) *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.*

I. The curse of disunity

James 3:15-16 (NLT) *For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.*

God hates divisiveness because it opens the door to the enemy!

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NASB 2020) *There are six things that the LORD hates, Seven that are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness who declares lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.*

God deeply hates attitudes and actions that harm others, destroy trust, and tear apart relationships. These seven things highlight sins that flow from pride, dishonesty, violence, and divisiveness—things that undermine the peace, justice, and unity God desires among His people.

Matthew 12:25 (NKJV)...*"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.*

Hebrews 12:14-15 (NASB 2020) *Pursue peace with all people, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;*

II. This kind of peace is impossible without humility

James 3:14 (AMP) *But if you have bitter jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry, selfish ambition) in your hearts, do not pride yourselves on it and thus be in defiance of and false to the Truth.*

James 4:1-3 (NLT) *What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?*

Humility!

James 4:7 (NLT) *So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Able to receive corrections!

Mark 9:49-50 (NLT) *"For everyone will be tested with fire. Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other."*

Ephesians 4:13 (NASB 2020) *until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:15 (NASB 2020) *but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

III. Peace with others is using Godly wisdom

James 3:17-18 (TPT) *But the wisdom from above is always pure, filled with peace, considerate and teachable. It is filled with love and never displays prejudice or hypocrisy in any form and it always bears the beautiful harvest of righteousness! Good seeds of wisdom's fruit will be planted with peaceful acts by those who cherish making peace.*

Romans 12:17-18 (NASB 2020) *Never repay evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all people. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people*

****Romans 14:19 (NASB 2020)** So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Proverbs 3:16-17 (NASB 2020) Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, And all her paths are peace.

The Bible shows that **godly wisdom isn't just intellectual—it's relational**. A wise person doesn't stir up strife but actively seeks peace, knowing that peace strengthens community, reflects God's character, and leads to blessing.

Ephesians 5:20-21 (NLT) And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

IV. The Blessing of Peace

Psalms 133:1-3 (NKJV) Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; **For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.**

****1 Peter 3:8-9 (NASB 2020)** To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing.

Matthew 5:9 (NASB 2020) **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."**

****Colossians 3:12-13 (NASB 2020)** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also. Here, peace is directly tied to humility, forgiveness, and mutual submission.

Philippians 2:1-4 (NLT) Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.