

Discussion Guide
Peace: wk4 Peace with Others, Pt. 2
June 25, 2023



Big Idea

Peace with others depends on us living like peace with others depends on us!



Icebreaker

It's graduation season in WNY! Share a memory from your own graduation.



Discussion Questions

1. Slowly read Colossian 1:19-20. What does this passage tell us about God and Jesus? Why did God and Jesus do what they did? Who made peace with us and how did they do it? Who is this peace available to? Because of the truth of this passage, we can have peace with God and peace with ourselves! Pray a prayer of thanksgiving & for us to respond to this gift of peace with God by pursuing peace with others as we apply what we explore tonight.
2. Read Romans 12:17-21. In what ways do you see the directives here as countercultural to the way most people live in our world?
3. Re-read Romans 12:17-18. Do you think that *'living at peace with everyone'* is a passive endeavor or an active one? If active, what may some of those actions include?
4. Re-read Romans 12:19. What do you think *'leave room for God's wrath'* looks like? Do you feel our task as Christians/the Church is to primarily acknowledge wrongs or to live at peace? How have we/you been doing at that? Do you feel this is a tension in your life, if so, how do you manage it?
5. Re-read Romans 12:20-21. How may the we, as Christians, and the world be different if we:
 - responded to hate & evil with care for the root issues (give an example)?
 - saw the human person harming us as someone trapped by sin & in need of a Savior & thus prayed?
 - saw the person harming us as Divine image bearers of God who are currently lost?
6. Reflect & share your thoughts on these statements (agree/disagree; how you can apply it, etc.) from the sermon:
 - The world (& the advancement of the Gospel) needs you to be a bridge builder between opposing ideologies because there is enough division already.
 - The world (& the advancement of the Gospel) doesn't need you to start a disagreement every holiday with your family, it needs you to create memories together because life is short.
 - The world (& God) doesn't need Christians to win every culture war.



Concluding Question

In this series we have referred to the peace that we are after being something beyond simple tranquility or the absence of conflict with another. In this week's message, specifically, it was stated in this general way: *"Peace from God's perspective means that all things are set right, restored, and flourishing."* Does this sound attractive to you? In which relationship of your life would love to see this happen? What are you willing to do to see that possibly happen?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer Pray for all area High School graduates!