

LIVING AT PEACE WHEN EVERYONE'S DECLARING WAR  
Hebrews 12:14-17

"Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time."

Lyndon Johnson

## The priority of peace (12:14)

Peace demands the right response to the wrong approach

Peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.

## The companion of holiness (12:14)

Without holiness you won't really see God, and no one else will see him in you either.

## The target of grace – Don't miss the mark (12:15)

## The bent arrows:

## The bitter root

The bitter root produces bitter fruit

The bitter fruit shows up far away from the bitter root

## The promiscuous one

We don't generally leap into immorality – we slide into it

## The secular mindset – spiritual schizophrenics

Sacrificing long-term relationship for short-term comfort

On Sunday Jim spoke about peace; not the peace we receive from God but the peace we make with other people in our daily experience. Think for a moment. In your personal situation, can you describe a situation that is most likely to set you up for a peace-breaking response?

### Digging deeper

1. As an introduction to our study this week, read Romans 12:18. Put this verse in your own words being sure that you pay attention to each phrase.

Does this verse guarantee that you will always have a peaceful outcome? Why or why not?

2. For our study we are going to park in Romans 12: 14-20. Each verse has a relational challenge. In each one (excluding verse 18) give a brief statement of how doing what it says will bring peace, and what harm doing the opposite will do.

3. Look back over your list. Think carefully about dealing with people inside the church, outside the church, and with current events and people in society. With which of those positive actions do you tend to have the most success?

Which do you tend to have the most trouble with?

4. Finally, we talked about not falling short of God's grace. We can do that as grace-receivers or grace-givers. Identify one or two areas where you need prayer as a grace-giver.