

“Gospel Peacemaking”

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: The Genuine Christian will seek to be a gospel peacemaker.

The genuine Christian life is one in which the individual is justified by faith and then puts that same faith into practice. Those who are counted righteous by faith, live by faith (Romans 1:17). Living by faith will often put us at odds with those who reject Christ and his gospel, who may attack us unjustly. But that doesn't mean we should resort to those same tactics just to live in peace. It simply means that we live by a completely different set of rules – the rules of God's kingdom rather than by the rules of this world's kingdom. One of the ways we live according to God's system is by making peace God's way. We call this gospel peacemaking.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 12:17-21** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “Gospel Peacemaking.”

DIG IN

Principles for gospel peacemaking:

1. Act Honorably. (Romans 12:17)

Why must acting honorably start with thinking honorably? How does what we learn in Romans 12:1-2 help us in this endeavor?

What are some examples of acting honorably in the Christian life?

Can only Christians act honorably? Why or why not? What might be the difference between worldly honor and Christlike honor?

2. Live Peaceably. (Romans 12:18-19)

Does Paul say that Christians should never defend themselves (v. 19)? Why or why not? In what situations would it be necessary for us to defend ourselves or our family?

Why is it important that Christians not avenge themselves? What are some examples of this?

What is the benefit of waiting for the Lord to take vengeance (see Proverbs 20:22)?

3. Give Generously. (Romans 12:20-21)

Why is it ironic that we would feed our enemies and give them something to drink? In what ways is this a reflection of the gospel?

In what ways is the concept of “heaping burning coals” on our enemies' heads both punitive and redemptive (see Psalm 140:10)?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?