

Romans 15:33

Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

With Christmas a little more than a month away, I think we can all echo the cries of the angels when they proclaimed at Jesus' birth:

† **Luke 2:14** *"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

If you think about it, isn't Peace what we all really want?

In our homes, when the kids are arguing, don't we want them to stop so that there is peace in the home?

Maybe you had a disagreement with your spouse or the person you are dating, don't you just want the disagreement to be over so that there is peace between the two of you?

Even in the church we go to, we know of, or maybe are even a part of strife and gossip and backbiting in the church, and unfortunately this happens in churches. But don't we just want Jesus' prayer to be answered so that there is love and unity in the church?

† **John 17:20-21** *I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

Even in our workplaces, there is always someone who just can't get along with someone else, and usually we are in the middle because we are friends with both of them, and we just want peace in the workplace.

Then we read today's verse that says, "*Now the God of peace be with you all*" and wonder, "*If God is the 'God of Peace', where is that peace at, or is He just not with us?*" The answer is that God is still with us, and He is right there walking along side of us and wants us to experience the Peace that He wants for all of mankind, and He is "*the God of Peace*" as the word says. Even to the church in Corinth Paul wrote:

† **1 Corinthians 1:3** *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Also to the Hebrews it says:

† **Hebrews 12:14** *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:*

Also, Jesus said:

† **Matthew 5:9** *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*

So think again of our example of our kids fighting with one another just like kids do. (We all did it as kids with our siblings, even though we loved them) But we as the parents just want peace and we try to make peace in the home, sometimes by talking to the kids or even getting into the extreme of punishing them. Either way it's so that there will be peace in the home. We are in sense the peacemaker in the home. But even though we are, it does not mean there will be peace as long as the kids choose to be disobedient to us and fight with their siblings.

God is "*the God of Peace*", and He wants us to have peace with one another, yet if we don't, it's not His fault, it's ours for not being obedient and loving towards one another like He tells us to do. And He is not only telling us to do it, but Jesus commands us to do it.

† **John 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

Jesus not only tells us, or commands us to love one another, but He also tells us why "*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*" So think about it, if God is "*the God of Peace*", and we are blessed if we are "*peacemakers*" then that shows the world that God is "*the God of Peace*", and we are His children, because we strive to have peace with one another.

So, this week, or to end out this year, let's pray and ask God to help us to be a "*Peacemaker*" and as we are, watch and see how God will bless us because we are a "*Peacemaker*" made so by "*the God of Peace!*"

† **Matthew 5:9** *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*

† **Hebrews 12:14-15 (MSG)** *Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you'll never get so much as a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time.*