

**Connected With One Another**  
Be at Peace with One Another  
Romans 12:16-21; Romans 14:14-19

I. Message – Be at peace with one another

a. Broadly – Romans 12:16-21

**i. Listen to others**

1. “16 Be of the same mind one toward another.”

a. This carries the idea of thinking of everyone equally

b. You can translate it like this: “Think of others in the same equal way”

i. You have to dialogue to know how to do this

ii. You actually have to LISTEN!

iii. Helps if they also the mind of Christ (Christian advantage)

**iv. Philippians 2:3**

2. Do you listen to others as much as you do yourself?

a. Or your favorite people?

b. You are not called to agree with everyone.

c. That would be impossible

d. But as a Christian you are called to love them and seek to resolve conflict in a biblical way

e. That starts by respectfully listening

**ii. Be humble with others**

1. “16...Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.”

2. Don't be impressed with the wrong things

a. Prestigious things

b. Personal ambitions

3. Lower yourself

a. This takes humility

b. But this is what Christ did

**c. Philippians 2:6-8**

i. Jesus gives us practical instruction on this in Luke

**ii. Luke 14:12**

1. No social ranking among believers

2. No intellectual ranking
3. This kind of attitude, too, is part of living in peace with others

### iii. Be gracious with others (good they do not deserve)

#### 1. 3 things

- a. "17 Recompense to no man evil for evil."
  - i. This is not talking about civil justice
  - ii. Wrong-doing should be appropriately paid for
  - iii. This verse is talking about **personal justice**
- b. "17...Provide things honest in the sight of all men."
  - i. Better translated: "think about how to provide good things instead"
  - ii. Don't work on a plan for revenge
  - iii. Work on a plan for blessing
    1. Remember what Jesus said:
    2. Matthew 5:43-44
      - a. Proverbs 15:1
      - b. Romans 12:19-21
- c. "18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."
  - i. Christians are to be people of peace!
    1. Hebrews 12:14
    2. James 3:18
  - ii. IF it is possible
    1. There are some people that are impossible to make peace with
    2. There are some things you SHOULD never change to make peace

#### b. In the Church – Romans 14:14-19

##### i. Be sensitive to other Christians' consciences

1. "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean."
  - a. Paul was concerned that Christian liberty (last week's message) would create disunity in the church
  - b. There is room for anything that is not outright sinful

c. UNLESS it hurts another

2. 1 Corinthians 10:23

## ii. Be aware of how your behavior might discourage other Christians

1. “15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably (without love). Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of: 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**”

a. The strong consciences willingly limit their liberty

b. 1 Corinthians 8:9

c. And the weak consciences willingly limit their judgmentalism

d. Mark 7:15

2. Notice the 3 words he uses in v.17 to describe the kingdom of God that lives this way

a. **Righteousness - Holy**

b. **Joy - Happy**

c. **Peace - Unified (peaceful) church**

## iii. Be edifying with other Christians

1. “18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us **therefore** (this is how it is done) **follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.**”

a. So, if your choices serve Christ (advance the priorities of Jesus) – v.18

b. And if your choices help men (build up the church) – v.18

c. We are acceptable to God!

d. What a powerful way for the church to live

e. THEREFORE...(this how you do this)

i. Be at peace with each other

ii. “Edify one another”

iii. Ephesians 4:3

## II. Conclusions for FBCW

- a. Are you **carefully listening** to others in a humble way?
- b. Are you **lowering yourself** to relationally serve those on the fringe?
- c. Are you **actively planning good**, not evil, to those that have wronged you?
- d. Are you **considering how your behavior** might discourage other believers?
- e. Are you seeking to **promote a holy, peaceful and happy** church?