

# Pursuing the Things Which Make for Peace

Romans 14:19

## Introduction:

- A. Absolute peace in this world will not happen (Matt. 10:34).
  - 1. Always conflict between right and wrong.
  - 2. Always conflict between Christians and the world.
  - 3. Neither expect nor desire peace with world.
- B. The peace of our text is a modified peace.
  - 1. It is peace among Christians — addressed to Christians.
  - 2. It is peace tied to edification, just peace — period (cf. Acts 9:31).
- C. Let's note three important things that make for peace among brethren:

## Discussion:

### I. Doctrinal Purity.

- A. Doctrinal error causes division (2 Pet. 2:1; Rom. 16:17-18; Acts 20:29-30).
- B. Doctrinal and moral purity more important than peace (Jas. 3:17).
  - 1. Cannot peacefully co-exist with false doctrine (Gal. 2:5).
  - 2. Cannot peacefully co-exist with immoral behavior (1 Cor. 5).

### II. Spiritual Maturity.

- A. Divisions at Corinth traced to spiritual immaturity (1 Cor. 3:1-4).
  - 1. Immature attitude toward teachers (v. 4; 1 Cor. 1:10-15).
  - 2. Possible immature attitude toward preaching (1 Cor. 2:1-5).
- B. Division often result of spiritual immaturity today.
  - 1. Formation of cliches and parties.
  - 2. Underdeveloped in "Christian graces" (cf. 2 Pet 1:5-7).

### III. Accepting Diversity.

- A. Accept diversity of functions (1 Cor. 12:4-26).
- B. Accept diversity of personalities, backgrounds and customs.
- C. Accept some diversity of personal convictions (Rom. 14).
  - 1. These involved personal matters, not congregational.
  - 2. These thing involved morally right matters, not immorality.

## Conclusion:

- A. Perhaps other things could be cited, but these go a long way in making for peace.
- B. Remember we must first be at peace with God, then pursue peace with others.