



Truth and Peace

BY: Chris Harper

"If possible, on your part, live at peace with everyone." - Romans 12:18

"If possible..." The Apostle Paul said, "If."

Philip II of Macedon was the father of Alexander the Great.

...truth is never what we think, feel or want, but truth is what we know to be true, and what we know to be true is the Word of God.

Alexander would eventually conquer most of the known world, but it was Philip who had kicked things off. Philip got things started by conquering all of the city-states of Ancient Greece... well almost all of them. The southernmost tip of Ancient Greece was inhabited by a most stubborn and proud people known as Spartans. The city state Sparta, revered for their military prowess, was last on Philip's list to control; so in 346 BC Philip sent a message to the Spartans, "you are advised to submit without further delay, for if I bring my army on your land I will destroy your farms, slay your people, and raze your city..."

The Spartans replied back to Philip with one word, "If."

Philip never marched into Sparta.

"If" is a simple yet immensely powerful word. And the apostle Paul said, "If." It is

imperative, as Christians today, that we are prepared to ask, "If." Often, both in the world around us and from our world within, within our own churches even, peace is not possible. Not only is it not possible, peace is not even plausible. That's why Paul said, "If," and since "If" implies a possibility, the question becomes, "If" when? When is peace a possibility? The answer: Peace is only possible when peace shadows truth.

Recently I have been embroiled in a little "theological" controversy. Speaking the last few months on a particular context of scripture I have

Upcoming events



Thursday, 11/20

G JV/V BBALL vs. Lanesville, 6 p.m.

Friday, 11/21

G JV/V BBALL @ South Ripley, 6 p.m.

5th/6th B BBALL vs. Silver Creek, 6 p.m.

Saturday, 11/22

MS G BBALL @ CAL

MS B BBALL @ CAL

B JV/V Scrimmage vs. Lawrence, 1 p.m.

G JV/V BBALL vs. Clarksville, 6 p.m.

Monday, 11/24

B JV/V BBALL @ FC, 6 p.m.

G JV/V BBALL vs. Orleans, 6 p.m.

G MS BBALL vs. Borden, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 11/25

MS B BBALL vs. OLPH, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/26

Schools Out

Thursday, 11/27

Thanksgiving

"offended" those who hold to a different position with my exertion of truth. Though I do not shy away from criticism, it is my earnest desire to "live at peace with everyone" and, in doing so, hoping to quell this issue, I have entertained the other positions and have even met with brothers in the faith that "feel" as if I have "authoritatively" said something wrong. Thinking that conversation, reason and, most importantly, God's Word would rule the day, I have been greatly disappointed. Without fail, time and time again, conversations and meetings would come to a close with the cliché that we would have to "agree to disagree." "You have the right to interpret scripture your way, we have the right to do it our way and we, in peace, can agree to disagree."

Nonsense. Agree to disagree? I was crushed. When did men, Godly men, stop pursuing the truth of God's Word, and, in cowardice fashion, simply begin to "agree to disagree?"

Friends, God's Word is not theory, it is not relative; No, God's Word it is absolute truth! Sufficient for all things, authoritative over all matters, God's Word is truth (John 17:17). And it is our only source of truth. Do we not owe it to the church, to ourselves, to God Himself, to know His truth? Agreeing to disagree is not an option, agreeing to disagree is pathetic and many of us today, including myself, should be ashamed of our

approach to God's Word.

Brothers and sisters, if there is some truth in God's Word that we cannot agree on, our response is not to agree to disagree.... We cannot drag truth into the street and let it die for the sake of peace! No, we must wrestle with what we know, we must wrestle with each other; in compassion and in love we wrestle with one another, wrestle with ourselves, like Jacob we wrestle with God! We wrestle for days, years, decades, we wrestle until truth is, above all things, clear, evident and sound according to His Word.

Peace is only possible where truth is found rooted and established... and the only place where truth is established is the word of God. If you want to have peace you must have truth. And it is important to add, truth is not what we think to be true, not what we "feel" is true, not even what we want to be true; truth is never what we think, feel or want, but truth is what we know to be true, and what we know to be true is the Word of God. The sufficient, authoritative, inerrant Word of God.

My soul cannot find peace as long as there is some truth of God's Word left to be discovered.

Calvinism...Armenianism...

Complementarianism...

Abortion...Creationism...

Lordship Salvation...Gifts of the Spirit...Women Pastors...Pre-destination... Baptism unto

Salvation...Homosexual Marriage... Friends, in these cases, like all cases, someone is either right or someone is wrong, or both parties are wrong, but the truth is there because God's Word is there. And we must fight to find it! Why? Because, "when the church must choose between truth and peace it must always choose truth..."

After all, King Jesus, the Prince of Peace, it was He, Jesus Himself who said, *"Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three."* (Luke 12:51-52)

Is peace to be desired? Is peace worth seeking? Certainly. But here in the Gospel of Luke Jesus makes His point evident and clear; the point that the truth of God's Word, ultimately the truth of the Gospel, that truth is most desirable, and truth is far more valuable than any notion of human peace.

King Leonidas said, "If." The apostle Paul said, "If." And I say, "live at peace with one another, IF the peace you have, is peace founded on the inerrant word of God.

Be well,

C. Harper, AD