

# Peace

Peace is a word that isn't easy to put a simple definition to because it applies in such a broad number of situations.

I suppose the world mostly uses it either as a lack of conflict, or as a calm state of mind.

The Bible uses peace in these same ways, but in a deeper sense and with teachings on how to achieve each.

## Lack of conflict

The world seems to define peace as a lack of open confrontation, as in warfare between nations, or fighting(physical or verbal)between groups, or individuals.

The Bible on the other hand, describes this kind of peace more like harmony between nations, groups, or individuals, and since nations and groups are made up of people, the Bible focuses on the conduct of individuals.

So, if harmony can be achieved between each of us, the nations and groups will take care of themselves.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God", and then he gives us lessons to teach us what a peacemaker looks like.

In Luke 6: 26-27 Jesus says "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

I think all of us have been mistreated by someone, for no apparent reason, at one time or another.

The instinctive reaction is probably to either try to retaliate, or run from it, and one of these two is probably what the one that did you wrong is expecting.

But Jesus teaches us to do the totally unexpected, by returning evil treatment with good.

This is what Jesus did, and what he teaches us as peacemakers to do.

The one that mistreated you doesn't know how to respond, and will likely feel shame and regret for whatever they did.

This is what was meant by Paul when he wrote in Romans 12:20 "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

This can, and usually does, build a bridge to friendly co-existence, and oftentimes even friendship and true peace.

The answer to our prayers of "peace on earth and good will to man" is simple really.

It is summed up by something Jesus said, that we have all heard and know to be true, regardless of our religious background.

Jesus said in Luke 6:30 "Do to others as you would have them do to you."