

July 13, 2026

Pursue Peace

July Series: Stronger Together

Week Focus: Building Healthy Relationships

Scripture – Romans 12:18 - *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*

Devotional Reflection

Healthy relationships do not happen by accident. They are built one intentional choice at a time. While everyone desires peaceful relationships, peace rarely develops on its own. Misunderstandings, disagreements, unmet expectations, and hurt feelings often arise naturally. Peace, however, requires something different. It requires people who are willing to pursue it. That is why Paul writes in Romans 12:18, *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."* God calls us not merely to appreciate peace, but to actively pursue it.

Pursuing peace does not mean pretending problems do not exist or avoiding difficult conversations. In fact, true peace often requires the courage to address conflict with wisdom, humility, and love. There is a significant difference between keeping the peace and making peace. Peacekeepers often avoid tension at all costs, hoping problems will simply disappear. Peacemakers, however, seek reconciliation. They are willing to listen, communicate honestly, extend grace, and work toward restoration. Healthy relationships grow when people choose to resolve conflict rather than ignore it.

Paul's words also remind us that we are responsible for our part. We cannot control how other people respond, what they choose to say, or whether they are willing to reconcile. But we can control our attitude, our words, and our actions. We can choose patience instead of anger, understanding instead of assumption, and forgiveness instead of resentment. Spiritual maturity is demonstrated when we stop asking, "How can I change them?" and begin asking, "Lord, how can You change me?" God often begins healing relationships by transforming the heart of the person willing to surrender first.

Just as a gardener intentionally waters, weeds, and cares for a garden, healthy relationships require continual attention. Left unattended, even the strongest relationships can become strained. Small offenses can grow into deep divisions if they are ignored. But when relationships are nurtured with grace, communication, humility, and forgiveness, they become stronger over time. Peace is not the absence of effort; it is often the result of consistent, intentional investment.

Today, ask yourself whether you are waiting for peace or pursuing it. Is there a conversation you need to have? Is there forgiveness you need to extend? Is there a misunderstanding that needs to be addressed with grace? As far as it depends on you, choose to become a peacemaker. Healthy relationships reflect the heart of Christ, and they are built by people who intentionally pursue peace every day.

Focus for Today

Healthy relationships are built when I intentionally pursue peace instead of waiting for it to happen.

Practice

- Ask God to reveal any relationship where peace needs to be pursued.
 - Pray for the courage to take the first step toward reconciliation if appropriate.
 - Before responding to conflict today, pause and ask, "Will my words build peace or create division?"
 - Look for one opportunity to encourage, listen to, or extend grace to someone today.
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Prayer

Father, thank You for calling me to be a person who pursues peace. Forgive me for the times I have allowed pride, fear, or frustration to stand in the way of healthy relationships. Fill my heart with humility, wisdom, and grace. Help me to be intentional with my words, my actions, and my attitudes. As far as it depends on me, help me live at peace with others and reflect the heart of Christ in every relationship. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

Is there a relationship in your life where God is calling you to stop waiting for peace and begin intentionally pursuing it?