



October 2016 - Harmony
Week 42 Oct. 9-15

Verse: "Make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Romans 14:19 NIV).

Notes: The Bible says, "Make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Romans 14:19 NIV). You are not responsible *foreveryone* in the body of Christ but you are responsible *to* them. God expects you do whatever you can to help them.

This week we are going to dig a little deeper into this verse. In reading and researching Romans 14:19, here are some things that can help us through situations and move us to living in harmony together. Here is the verse again:

"Make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Romans 14:19 NIV).

Have you ever tried to justify something by saying "Yeah, but if you only knew how rude he/she was to me!" or "Yeah, but if you had heard what he/she said to me!" or "Yeah, but if you knew how he/she nags me and snaps at me!" "Don't I have a right to be treated with some kindness and love?"

Sound familiar? Gulp.
Me, too.

Let's start by committing to no more "Yeah, but's"
The Bible doesn't say: "Pursue peace and building up one another, *except when you've been treated wrongly!*" or "Go after peace and building up the other person *except when he deserves the silent treatment!*"

Are you thinking, "So, am I just supposed to be a doormat? Am I just supposed to absorb his/her abusive speech?"

The biblical answer is that sometimes you are supposed to just absorb it. We are NOT talking about physical abuse. This is about when someone is rude, mean or insensitive.

Here is the good news. Whew.

If you seek peace and pursue it when you're wronged, the Lord notices. He listens to your prayers. He will take up your cause against those who have wronged you.

Our job is to pursue peace and the things that build up the other person. This does not mean "peace at any cost," because often that does not build up the other person. Our aim should be to pursue godly relationships.

Happiness comes from harmony, and harmony comes from humility. If you want to be a humble person, start asking yourself these questions: "What would Jesus do?"
What would Jesus do in this problem?

Ask these questions, and you'll always come up with a humble answer. That answer builds harmony and happiness rather than difficulty, defeat, bitterness, and resentment.
Yay, thank you & Amen!

