

Joyce Meyer: How to Pursue Peace in Every Relationship

Relationships are an important part of life. Healthy relationships have the ability to bring us great joy and satisfaction; however, *unhealthy ones* can make life miserable.

Throughout my life, God's Word has taught me so many great lessons about how to get along with people—something I wasn't very good at for a long time. But the greatest lesson was this: *Choose to live in peace with others.*

Simply put, it's God's will for us to live in peace and harmony with one another, and His Word offers clear instructions on how to get along with people in our daily lives.

First Peter 3:11 (AMPC) says, "Let him search for peace (harmony; undisturbedness from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts) and seek it eagerly. [Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, and with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]"

Notice that this verse says we can't merely *desire* peaceful relationships—we have to *pursue* them!

Now, this doesn't mean we won't ever disagree. People are naturally going to have disagreements, and it's okay to disagree if we can do it respectfully. *But we must avoid strife.*

What is strife? The dictionary defines strife as "bickering, arguing, a heated disagreement, or an angry undercurrent."

Strife is one of the greatest threats to healthy relationships; it has the ability to destroy marriages, personal relationships and even churches. Like a seed, strife

can get planted through something we say or do, then eventually grow to become a major problem.

God's Word tells us that it's the "little foxes" that sneak into the vineyard and spoil all the grapes (see Song of Solomon 2:15). I believe this is true when it comes to strife. Left unchecked, even minor disagreements or frustrations can eventually destroy a relationship.

So, how do we keep strife out of our relationships? Here are some practical tips:

Maintain a Humble Heart

Where there is contention and strife, there is also pride. That's why it is so important for us to practice humility.

We all like to be right—whether it's an argument about a major issue or something trivial. However, humility insists that we give up our "right to be right."

I can't tell you how many times my husband, Dave, and I wasted time arguing about some insignificant issue. And those times I "won," I really lost because I damaged our relationship and gave up my peace in the process.

I challenge you to adopt an attitude of humility. If you're having an argument, be the first to make peace or if you know you are right! It may be painful in the moment, but it will be well worth it in the end.

Let Love Be Your Guide

Strife isn't just a 21st century problem. The apostle Paul wrote to the early church, encouraging them to avoid strife and stay away from petty arguments.

In Philippians 2:2 (NIV), he writes, "Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

Where there is unity, God pours out His blessings (Ps. 133). And Matthew 18:19 tells us there is power in agreement. However, we can't truly agree and walk in unity if there is bitterness, offense or unforgiveness in our hearts.

I can put a big smile on my face and say all the right things, but if I'm still purposely harboring all sorts of negative thoughts and feelings about someone, I'm not really walking in love or unity. It's not just the *outside* that matters— what's going on *inside* is even more important.

First Corinthians 13:5 (AMPC) says that love “is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it.” Verse 7 goes on to tell us that love believes the best of every person.

I encourage you to truly love the people in your life. Make a decision to stay unified no matter what tries to get between you. Because, after all, “love never fails” (1 Cor. 13:8).

Seek the Prince of Peace

The very best relationship advice I can give you is to develop a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, *the Prince of Peace*. I encourage you to spend regular time with Him through prayer and by reading and studying His Word.

As you do, He will literally change you from the inside out, causing you to think differently and act differently. It is only when we receive *His* peace and *His* love that we can truly give it away to others!

I am so grateful for the peace of God in my life. The Lord has not only changed my relationships, but *He has changed me*. And He will do the same for you.

It is possible to enjoy stable, joyful, fulfilling relationships. *And it all begins with a simple decision to pursue peace. {eoa}*

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 135 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and *The Power of Thank You (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [.](#)

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.