

Parson to Person

10-10-2021

So then, each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

Romans 14:12–13

Do you need peace in your family?

Pastor Paul has labored diligently to drive a point home to us here in the Candlelight family, in a several-weeks-long aside based on chapter 14 of Romans. It's a point that has to do with peace.

You may have picked up on that point. I have. I'll try to reiterate it in my own way. *There will be no future condemnatory judgment for the born-again believer.*

To put it another way, in the precise terms of Pastor Paul's messages the last three weeks, *born again believers have already been to the Bema Seat*. We stood before the judgment throne of God and Christ took our judgment then and there. Furthermore, this is how we experience the peace promised to the believer. To put this in my own way—and you can test me to see if you think we heard the same message!—*there is no reason for the born again believer to face the prospect of death with any fear*. Because “[t]here is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1), we can face the worst knowing that “if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord” (Romans 14:8).

In short, being born again by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, *we can have peace*. What's more (and this is where today's message comes in), **believers are exhorted to protect each other's peace by refusing to put obstacles in each other's way**.

This is Pastor Jason, Candlelight's Family Life pastor. With today's message, I am going to take the above point as established exegetically. Since the Roman Church was, as we are today, saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (and hence will face no future condemnatory judgment), there is great motivation and urgency to help each other abide in peace. To let “the peace of God, which passes all understanding... guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

Given this, my aim today is to use sound biblical typology, within the framework of sound dispensational teaching, **to illustrate** the way God has worked to help believers protect each other's peace with God. Maybe you won't be surprised to see me illustrate it with a biblical **family**!

It is very interesting to me that from the dispensations of innocence and conscience all the way to the Millennial kingdom and the new heavens & earth, families are the proving ground for God's work. The first sin was a matter not only between the woman and the serpent, but a failure in the first marriage. The second sin was a grievous murder motivated by the envy of one brother against another. When God blessed Abraham, launching His plans across all dispensations, He promised that “in you all the families of the earth will be blessed” (Genesis 12:3). But among all the early typology forecasting and foreshadowing the peace of the church-age family of God, the most striking to me is that of **Joseph and his brothers**.

Today's Bible Study will apply the truth of Romans 14:12–13 using the example of Joseph's divinely orchestrated reconciliation with his brothers.

To help you prepare for this moment of study together, recall the lengthy account in Genesis chapters 37 through 50, the story of Joseph. As you review the record of eleven brothers' early envy and hatred toward the favorite son of their father, and think about the great evil they perpetrated on him, ask yourself the following questions:

1. How do young men get to the point of being willing to traffic their own younger brother?
2. Is it really that far a distance between simple envy and murderous rage?
3. What must have Joseph felt when he realized the depth of their hatred?
4. How alone did Joseph feel during his first night in that cistern?
5. Did the brothers have any regard or respect at all for their own father, considering how deeply Jacob felt about the younger brother they had come to hate?
6. Did you notice a low point, a moment when Jacob seemed to realize his family was all but destroyed?
7. Most important, did you notice a moment when hearts began to change?

Spoiler alert: only God can change the dynamics of a family, because only God can change the human heart!

The amazing, miraculous transformation that came upon Jacob's family is something that surprised Joseph and all his brothers. It's a transformation that inspires and blesses us today. But the best news is that once we've been to the Bema seat with Christ, *we know how this peace begins to take root in hearts and families. It happens by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, in Christ Alone, to the Glory of God Alone!*

We love you, Candlelight Family and Friends!

Pastor Jason