

THE BOOK OF
HEBREWS

A Call to Faithful Perseverance

“Get Along” and “Be Holy”
(Practical Sanctification)

Hebrews 12:14-17

*“He that is not a son of Peace is not a son of God.
All other sins destroy the Church consequentially; but Division and Separation demolish it directly.”*

Richard Baxter

Christians must take the initiative to restore peace. Jesus taught that it makes no difference whether you have wronged your brother or he has wronged you. Either way, *you* are always responsible to initiate efforts toward peace (see Matthew 5:23-24 and 18:15). If we are serious about striving for peace, we won't be concerned about which of us is the offending party. We will have one goal: To restore peace in a godly manner. Unresolved conflict between believers is sin and must be treated as such; otherwise, it will spread throughout the body like cancer until it requires radical spiritual surgery.

It is far better to deal with it quickly, when it is more easily contained.

Jerry Bridges (*The Practice of Godliness*)

“When God removes good works as a condition for his acceptance, he does not remove holiness (sanctification) as a requirement for life. God's grace not only rescues individuals from their personal sin; it also creates a new community that is united as a family through a mutual dependence on Christ.”

Bryan Chapell (*Holiness by Grace*)

“Real Christianity leads a believer to Jesus Christ. That means that the Holy Spirit comes to live within the Christian, giving the person a new nature, creating love for God and a new desire to obey him, and providing the ability to do what God requires. In other words, the gospel leads to an internal transformation.”

J.M. Boice

Strive to....

I. Get Along with People (vs. 14) *“Make every effort to be at peace with everyone....”*

A. Those *Within* the Church (Family of God)

Ephesians 4:2-3

1. Church Conflict in *History*
 - a. Biblical history
 - b. Church history
 - c. Modern era
2. Church Conflict *Quotes and Stats*
3. Church Conflict as *Bad Witness*

Matthew 5:9 *“Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called sons of God!”*

B. Those *Outside* the Church (Family of God)

Romans 12:8 *“If possible, so far as depends on you, live peaceably with all!”*

But never to the point of compromising faithfulness

II. Be Holy (vs. 15) *“without SANCTIFICATION no one will see the Lord”*

- A. Holiness as our Calling/Striving (Job Description) **1Peter 2:21,23**
- B. Justification vs. Sanctification (Don't Confuse them!) One is *Indicative*, the other *Imperative*
- C. Holiness is by *God's Grace*

III. The Lesson of Esau: *Beware the Impulsive Nature of Sin (Controlling Appetite) and What It can Cost You!* **Genesis 25:29-34**

A. The Appetites that “swallow” Humanity

1. Food (vs. 16-17)
2. Drink (Proverbs 23:20-21)
3. Sex (David and Bathsheba)
4. Money/Stuff (Proverbs 23:4-5)
5. Power/Control (Deuteronomy 17:17)
6. Fame/Attention (“Be somebody important”)

B. All of the above are NOT HOLY. So, beware!

C. What hope do we have? Jesus.

Hebrews 12:14-17

14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

Ephesians 4:2-3

2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called sons of God!

Romans 12:8

If possible, so far as depends on you, live peaceably with all!

1Peter 1:21,23

“Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you might follow in his steps...when he was insulted, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he did not respond with threats, instead he continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”

Deuteronomy 29:18

“Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.”

Deuteronomy 17:17

“He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.”

Genesis 25:29-34

29 Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. 30 He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)

31 Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

32 “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

33 But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.