

## Be at Peace

**Job 22:21- Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.** (KJV)

Believers are to be at peace with God, his or her neighbor and his or herself. Great Lent provides the opportunity for believers to repent of hurtful relationships. The opportunity exists for believers to renew and develop peaceful relationships. God's teachings, guidance and presence foster peaceful human relationships. The personal relationship with God shapes peaceful relationships in daily life.

**Psalms 54/55:20- He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant.** (KJV)

Self-examination during Great Lent identifies needed changes in relationships. Repentance and forgiveness in relationships are part of the Lenten journey. The Church encourages repentance, forgiveness and improving relationships. Dangers exist for individuals creating and facilitating hostile relationships. Being hostile toward God or others in daily life is perilous to the human soul.

**Proverbs 16:7-When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him** (KJV)

The Lord is fully aware of the person's innermost thoughts and motivations. The contents of the heart, mind and soul determine if relationships are peaceful. Love is the consistent and defining standard for peaceful Christian relationships. Being at peace with God, the self and each other requires constant fervent effort. The Holy Scriptures offer the guidance and nourishment for peaceful relationships.

**Isaiah 42:14- I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.** (KJV)

Honoring Great Lent is a way for husbands and wives to pursue marital peace. Family peace can increase when members seriously participate in Great Lent. Open communication founded in love minimizes conflicts and promotes peace. Practicing forgiveness is essential for healthy long-term family relationships. The Lord is attentive to family members' prayers seeking peace in the home.

**Jeremiah 4:19- My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.** (KJV)

Feeling pain in daily relationships is the motivator to look to the Lord for help. Heeding wisdom from the Prophets spurs repentance among attentive believers. Being open to repentance is necessary for establishing daily peace with others. Renewal is required of nations, communities and families if they are to be at peace. The Church provides the definitive pathways for peace in human relationships.

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] Holy Hieromartyr Basil, Presbyter of Ancyra.. March 22/April 4, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania, Father Rodney Torbic