

## ***No one left behind!***

Hebrews 12:14-15  
2/14 & 15/2009

### **1. Don't forget you are running the race God has for you.**

*Mark out a straight path for your feet, so that those who are weak and lame, will not fall but become strong.* Hebrews chapter 12 verse 13 (928)

So...

*Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.* Hebrews chapter 12, verse 14 (928)

### **2. "Work at living in peace with everyone,"**

- "Work hard" or "*pursue peace*"
- The race is not just about you.
- God acknowledges that relationships are difficult and that conflict is inevitable.
- *Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible.*  
Romans chapter 12, verse 18 (866)
- Yes... this includes the difficult people!

*Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God.*

Hebrews chapter 12, verse 15 (928)

- ✓ Make sure that as you run the race that God has for you that you are not forgetting those around you.
- ✓ We have a responsibility to be concerned for the other runners.
- ✓ "*Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.*"  
John chapter 13, verse 35 (822)
- ✓ If people don't find the love of Christ among us where else will they find?
- ✓ I want God to trust me with other people!

### **3. Develop a love that promotes peace.**

- View people through God's eyes.

*When he saw the crowds he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* Matthew chapter 9, verse 36 (740)

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

Ephesians chapter 2, verse 10 (896)

- Never forget the grace you have been given.

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.* Ephesians chapter 2, verse 8 (896)

- Ask God to develop this quality in your life.

*If I could speak in all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would be of no value whatsoever.* 1 Corinthians chapter 13, verses 1-3 (878)

**It does not nearly matter how smart or gifted you are, but rather how much you love others.**

*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*

1 Corinthians chapter 13, verses 4-7 (878)

*"and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord."*

Hebrews chapter 12, verse 14 (928)

#### **4. Live a life that promotes peace.**

➤ There is an important connection between my "personal holiness" and my ability to love people.

➤ *Holy*- to be set apart for God. To live life God's way.

➤ I can not love people without first loving God.

➤ Be like Jesus- *For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters.*

*Romans chapter 8, verse 29 (863)*

*Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many."* Hebrews chapter 12, verse 15 (928)

• "bitter root of unbelief"- anything from a total denial of Christ to a negative attitude or hopeless outlook.

• A negative, critical attitude is contagious and very dangerous.

• Sometimes we need to say tough stuff to each other, but always with love and hope.

• God is always hopeful when it comes to people changing.

*Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.* 1 Corinthians chapter 13, verse 7 (878)

• Churches are to be places of hope, filled with stories of life change!

*You want more?*

➤ Search out every occurrence of the word *peace* in the New Testament by using a concordance or online to discover what is important to God.

➤ Read John chapter 17, what is Jesus most passionate about as he prays.

➤ Read 1 John chapter 3, what proves our love?

➤ What's tough love? Read Matthew 18 to discover the steps we are to take when we have been hurt by another Christ follower.

➤ Read Acts 2:42-47 what acts of love was present among these people?

➤ What does it mean "to speak the truth in love"?

➤ To whom do I have to do this?

Next week: "Finish Well"