

Devotions – January 11-17, 2015

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Sunday, January 11, 2015

Text: Romans 12:18b

Do your best to live at peace with one another.

I wrote a series of devotions based on this verse earlier in 2014. Funny, it just seemed that there were so many situations that I ran into where I needed to pay heed to this verse. I even proposed a week's worth of devotions based on this verse and it was accepted! I have been unable to locate that series of devotions. Guess what? There's a whole lot of new material!

Let us pray: Lord, help us to heed this verse even when we do not want to! Amen.



Monday, January 12, 2015

Text: Romans 12:18b

Do your best to live at peace with one another.

What does it mean to live at peace with one another? I was blessed to be a part of a church community for over twenty years where we practiced communicating openly, honestly and respectfully. Wow. I could share down to the grittiest detail and I would be heard and respectfully responded to. If something was proposed and I said, "No," it was accepted. Open, honest, respectful - it works.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, Show us how to live at peace with one another without discounting each other's concerns. Amen.



Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Text: Romans 12:18b

Do your best to live at peace with one another.

This Christmas season has been a challenging one for our family. My sister is answering a call to volunteer at Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity Mission in Calcutta, India. We are attempting to move the majority of her stuff into two garages that already have a lot of stuff stored in them; some family stuff, some of mine. How do we remain at peace in the midst of different viewpoints, different values, different desires, different goals?

Let us pray: Lord, help us to follow your bidding and to live at peace. Show us how. Amen.



Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Text: Romans 12:18b

Do your best to live at peace with one another.

In my haste to be helpful to my sister who is entering a missions stint and moving out of a two-story, four bedroom house, I have spouted out ideas for her stuff, where it could go and what she could do with it—before asking her if she was open to such ideas. What a helpful question, "Are you open to . . . ?" And if not, accept her "No". No matter how good my idea is...

Let us pray: Dearest Lord, Help me to be cognizant about other people's boundaries and respectful of their plans. Amen.



Thursday, January 15, 2015

Text: Romans 12:18b

Do your best to live at peace with one another.

I was ferociously preparing Mom's house for a Christmas family dinner. I hadn't finished before I went to my sister's house to give her a hand with moving. "I've never had a family Christmas dinner," she said. A day or so later, I suggested we have dinner at her house. She felt miffed and put upon. She didn't understand the change in venue, let alone receive it as a gift from me! She didn't ask the question. Do you have similar situations? Ask the question!

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, make us bold enough to ask the questions so that we can indeed live at peace with one another. Amen.



Friday, January 16, 2015

Text: Romans 12:18b

Do your best to live at peace with one another.

I treasure my relationship with my sister. Years ago, we realized that no matter what happened between us, we would always forgive each other and love each other no matter what. We can be blatantly honest. What a gift! As Christians, every relationship should be like this! We pray, “Forgive us AS we forgive”.

Let us pray: Precious Lord, you paved the way for us to live at peace with one another by showing us the both the freedom and the necessity of forgiveness. Thank you.



Saturday, January 17, 2015

Text: Romans 12:18b

Do your best to live at peace with one another.

A person was complaining about goings on at their church prior to a funeral where there was a large attendance of non-members. I silently cringed as they went on and on. I did not have a way to say, “Stop talking. Others are listening!” What do we Christians sound like to a listening world? Does living at peace mean we just set aside our ideas, thoughts, and wishes? Sometimes - but not necessarily always.

Let us pray: Precious Lord, Show us when to speak, give us the words You want us to use. Show us when to compromise, when to stand firm and when to keep silent. Amen.

