

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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What is peace? Is it war? No. Is it strife? No. Is it lovely, and gentle, and beautiful, and pleasant, and serene, and joyful? O yes!

The word "peace" has many meanings, from the absence of war and armed conflict to personal inner serenity. All around the world people yearn for the opportunity for their families to live work and thrive in peace. They dream of a future where forces like injustice, poverty and racism no longer exist.

Peace is not something you wish for, it's something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away. Even the simplest ways you can be at peace with someone. Saying "I'm sorry" would I guess be the hardest word for someone who committed a sin, but believe it is the best word you can use admitting that you've mistaken and asks for forgiveness to the person you've wronged. To it's quite a heavy load when you know someone is angry at you. Before the sun sets, we must go to the person we err to and ask for forgiveness.

I believe that peace is not merely an absence of war but the nurture of human life, and that in time this nurture would do away with war as a natural process. Peace is the beauty of life. It is sunshine. It is the smile of a child, the love of a mother, the joy of a father, the togetherness of a family. It is the advancement of man, the victory of a just cause, the triumph of truth. Peace is all of these and more and more.

Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty.

Most people think of peace as a state of Nothing Bad Happening, or Nothing Much Happening. Yet if peace is to overtake us and make just the gift of serenity and well-being, it will have to be the state of Something Good Happening.

To be at peace with oneself is to accept what or who one is and to have stopped warring with oneself. To be at peace in community is to make an agreement to end hostility, to live together in harmony, accepting the presence of one another. To be at peace in the cosmos is to accept, largely on faith, that the universe is benign, a more or less fitting habitat for the sorts of beings and forces that dwell or operate within it. But we cannot forget that this peace has been dearly purchased. The very greatness of the price we have had to pay in suffering and sorrow indicates the special responsibilities attached to it. Be it our task as Christian citizens to heal the resentments of this long conflict and to join hands with our gallant opponents: now become our fellow-subjects, in order to build a Christian civilization in the land which has been for so many months ravaged by war.

Human rights are rights that any person has as a human being. We are all human beings; we are all deserving of human rights. One cannot be true without the other. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.