

WORLD PEACE: Where does it begin?

Student

School of Allied Medicine
Universidad de Zamboanga
Zamboanga City, Philippines

“Peace, like every other rare and precious thing, doesn’t come to you. You have to go and get it.” (Faith Forsyte). It’s like somewhat a dream that you have to take into reality. Conflicts in the world nowadays are very rampant. Violence, crime, wars and even disasters. We cannot recall a single day without hearing a report of something terrible happening somewhere. There were no days that nobody was killed. No days that nobody suffered. Many lives around the world were taken already because of this widespread problem. It might be clear that precious life is not safe anymore.

World peace is a significant problem that we should consider. It will harm more lives if we will do nothing and just ignore this thing. We will risk destroying our world and each country would begin hating each other. We should not lay everything to our government or nation. If we would have to ask ourselves if world peace is possible? Emphatically yes! There are many ways to promote peace in the world but perhaps the best way is to start it within ourselves.

World peace! Everybody dreams for world peace. Everybody thinks it’s an ultimate solution to problems and turbulences that somehow impede the way through globalization. Hence, it is everybody’s concern. It must be admissible, too, that without peace, not anyone can be happy. It is in the presence of peace in our hearts that we truly can feel such joy and self-actualization.

World peace is an idea simple in principle but difficult to achieve in practice because, many times, we have not found peace within ourselves. Societies cannot be peaceful societies until the members of the society look peacefully toward each other. But, it is impossible to look peacefully toward each other under constant threat for one’s survival.

For more than three years that I am in college, issues on world peace have been the content of most magazines, news papers, and electronic media. War on ideologies and religion, disputes on territories, arrogance of power, political and economic differences, any and jealousy; these are among the roots of violence and unstable plight of many people. The tide of world events, over which individuals seemingly have no control, cannot pose an irredeemable threat to the safety and security of individuals. In different parts of the world, individuals had to struggle and make the best of them. Eventually, however, these individuals find themselves in disputes and misunderstanding; more often than not, in crimes.

Philippines is no different from these instances because the same scenarios describe how Filipinos deal with the difficulties in achieving peace and order. Not only in Mindanao where peace has become the first dream of everyone but also in every parts of the country.

Haplessly, our nation faces many problems just to obtain world peace. Their would be somebody who has grudges and revenge in their hearts. Terrorism, weapons etc. happened when

those feelings triggered. They deliberately target those people who are mostly innocent. With this attitude we could hardly establish world peace.

Government should condemn perpetrators. They are more powerful than any ordinary man. They have the capability to bring justice to those who commit crimes against humanity. They can rule the country. They can create group experts that would dramatically reduce conflicts.

In the past century, just two of the many wars waged killed 70 million people. Yet strangely many people believe there has never been a greater prospect of actually achieving world peace. Despite the complexity of the issues involved, the solutions may be quite simple and there is good news on the way. Because we're not losing hope.

No-one can solve all the world's problems. To try would be to dissipate one's energies and achieve nothing. The best thing we can do is to focus all our efforts and attention on just one problem and hope our endeavors will make a difference to it. That immediately creates the dilemma of which particular problem to solve. It may be a matter of personal preference, or it may be a matter of perceived priority. Given that the best way to solve a large number of problems is to solve one at a time and the best way is to start it within yourself.

Peace isn't some grand event that occurs because some great leader appears and proclaims peace. Differences sometimes in individuals are a barrier that stops us from attaining peace. We might ask where we can find peace? Maybe the answer lies in our own meaning. It's not just seeing people in harmony, being happy and living without chaos.

Peace has a deeper meaning. Peace should always stay in our hearts. If each of us learns to seek peace in the ability of human desires and intentions, this might be the path to the peace that each one of us dreamed of. And did I mention peace is not just something you wish for? It's something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away.

In addition, it is true that the world has become so complex and so technologically oriented that individuals no longer believe that they can do anything to affect world events, it is precisely the opposite. The quest for peace must be carried out on many fronts, the most important of which is for each of us to contribute our portion toward an environment in which humans can labor and enjoy the fruits of their labor without fear that aggressive neighbors and oppressive governments will confiscate their gain. We must be able to seek communion with our God without fear that individual beliefs will be ridiculed or oppressed by others.

Peace starts from every heart of men.