



1

Part 2:  
What to do when in-laws become  
Christmas outlaws

Finding "holy days" in the  
holidays

Removing the hassle & hurry from the  
hustle & bustle

2



3

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Lk 2:13-14

4

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” Lk 2:13-14

5

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” Lk 2:13-14

6



**Jn 14:27** Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

7

**“If you prayed as much as you complain and quarrel, you’d have a lot less to argue about and much more peace of mind.”**

8

## In Christ, we have peace with God

**Rom 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Col 1:21-22** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup>in the body of His flesh through death,

9

## In Christ, we have the peace of God

**Phil 4:7** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Col 3:15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

10



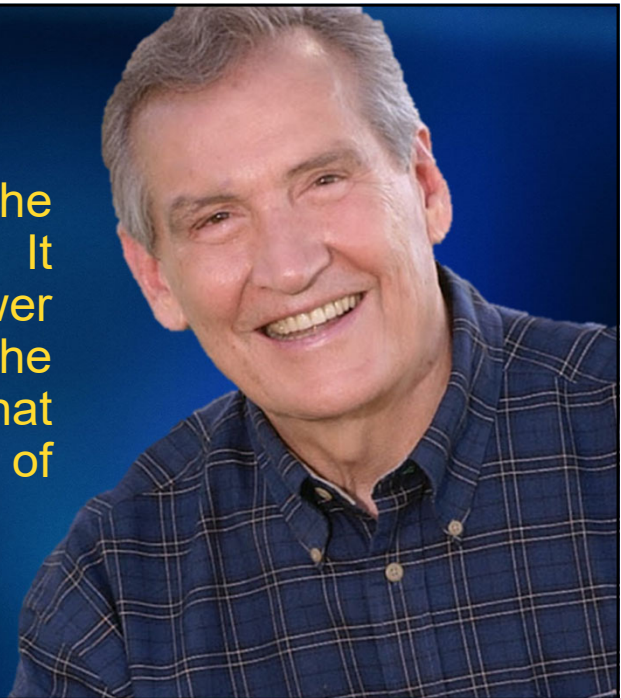
## In Christ, we have peace with others

**Rom 14:19** Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

**1 Cor 7:15** But God has called us to peace.

11

“Peace is not the subtraction of problems. It is the addition of the power to meet them. ... It’s the object of your faith that matters, not the strength of it.” Adrian Rogers



12

So, how can do we deal with Christmas “outlaws” – and any other outlaws for that matter?

13

**Rom 12:18-21** If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

14

# 1. Conflict is a certainty

**Rom 12:18** If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

15

Reasons for conflict:

- **Rejecting the truth**

**Rom 1:25** ... who exchanged the truth of God for the lie

**Mrk 7:9-12** He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' <sup>11</sup> But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God), <sup>12</sup> then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother,

16



- **Pride/self-centeredness**

**Prov 13:10** By pride comes nothing but strife, ...

**Phil 2:3-4** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

17

- **Expecting others to meet needs only God can meet**

**Phil 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

**19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

18

## 2. Peace is a choice

**Rom 12:18** ... as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

**Js 3:18** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**Js 1:19** So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup>for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

19

## 3. Revenge is a curse

**Rom 12:19** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written [Deut 32:35], "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

20

## 4. Kindness is a cure

**Rom 12:20** Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." [Prov 25:21-22 ...And the Lord will reward you.]

**Prov 15:1** A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

21

## 5. Reconciliation is our calling

**2 Cor 5:18** [God] has given us the ministry of reconciliation

- **Reconciliation** is not the same as **resolution**  
(reconciliation focuses on the relationship while resolution focuses on the problem)
- **Forgiveness** is not the same as **trust**  
(forgiveness is all about the past while trust is all about

22



**Mt 5:9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- He did not say blessed are the peace lovers.
- He did not say blessed are the peaceable.

A peacemaker is one who “attempts” to make peace.

23

## What peacemaking is not:

- Avoiding conflict
- Appeasement
- Compromising “core” principles

24



## Steps to peacemaking:

- Accept the reality of conflict
- Prefer peace to vindication
- Pick your hills to die on
- Don't be suckered in to a useless argument
- Learn to hold your silence
- Consider the possibility you might be wrong
- Make a real effort to get along

25

**Jn 14:27** Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

26



27