

HOW TO CULTIVATE PEACE IN AN ANGRY WORLD

Note to the speaker:

Make a tender appeal to victims of injustice to let go of anger and leave their frustrations in Jehovah's hands. Use verified experiences to illustrate the superiority of Christian peaceableness over protest and retaliation

THE WORLD IS INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE AND ANGRY (3 min.)

The Bible foretold that "the last days" would be marked by selfishness and hatred (2Ti 3:1-3)

Some victims of injustice retaliate with violence, fueling further anger (*w07* 4/15 4; *g* 6/11 5-6)

How can we keep from becoming consumed by anger?

ALMIGHTY GOD WILL PERMANENTLY END INJUSTICE (6 min.)

Jehovah God hates injustice and promises to eliminate it [**Read Psalm 37:10, 11**]

Human political solutions and protest movements are not God's means of bringing justice (Da 7:13, 14)

God will use his Son, Jesus Christ, to remove all who oppress their fellow man (Ps 72:13, 14)

The Bible refers to the time when God will remove the wicked as "the day of Jehovah's anger" (Zep 2:2)

Unlike human anger, God's anger is always justified and never excessive (*it-1* 108)

When God acts, the result will be an "abundance of peace" earth wide

To benefit, we must cooperate with Jehovah's way of correcting injustice (Zep 2:3)

BE A PEACEMAKER WHO CONQUERS EVIL WITH GOOD (13 min.)

[**Read and discuss key portions of Romans 12:18-21**]

Verse 18: "If possible, as far as it depends on you, be peaceable with all men"

Show your support for God's solution to injustice by choosing to be peaceable

Avoid association with people who lash out in anger or who advocate vengeance (Pr 22:24, 25)

Verse 19: "Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but yield place to the wrath; for it is written: "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says Jehovah'"

Retaliation is self-destructive and feeds a cycle of hatred (*w09* 9/1 21-23)

Instead of retaliating, strengthen your faith that Jehovah God will act

Imitate Jesus, who had confidence that God would avenge unjust treatment (1Pe 2:23)

Verse 20: "But 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink'"

Break the cycle of anger and revenge by looking for ways to do good even to "your enemy"

A primary way to do good to others is to share with them the Bible's hope of relief from injustice (*yb09* 212-213)

Verse 21: "Do not let yourself be conquered by the evil"

If you feel powerless before oppressors, do not direct your frustration toward family or friends

Seek support from a mature friend whose thinking agrees with God's (*g05* 2/22 19-20)

Pour out your feelings to Jehovah in prayer (Ps 37:5, 6; 55:22)

Verse 21: "But keep conquering the evil with the good"

Be willing to forgive others whenever there is a basis for doing so (Eph 4:31, 32; *g95* 6/8 10 ¶6-7)

Let go of resentment and leave matters in Jehovah's hands (*w13* 6/15 20-21 ¶15-16; *w00* 8/15 5, box)

God's holy spirit can empower a person to overcome deeply rooted anger (2Co 10:4, 5; Php 4:13)

Ask God for help to replace angry thoughts with compassionate, peaceful ones (*w10* 6/15 24 ¶18-19)

CULTIVATING PEACE LEADS TO BLESSINGS (8 min.)

Many have applied Bible principles on peaceableness and enjoyed blessings as a result

They have broken free from a violent course (*g* 6/12 19-21; *g* 6/11 6-7; *g03* 1/8 18-20)

They have enjoyed better health and greater happiness (Pr 14:30; Mt 5:5, 9; *g* 5/06 28-29)

Some have helped former opposers to change (Ro 12:20, ftn; *yb10* 63-64)

Victims of injustice cannot change the past, but they can look forward to a bright future [**Read Psalm 37:8, 9**]

We invite you to continue associating with Jehovah's Witnesses and learning to 'hope in Jehovah'

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]