

This month's letter is from Pastor Garry Kelly, Cross Hills Baptist Church

A Peaceful 2025.

Romans 12:17-18

Can we live at peace with everyone? Paul knew just how tough this may be sometimes. That's why he said, in verse 18, *'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone'*. If you cannot forgive someone who has wronged you in one way or another then you cannot live at peace with them. And the result will be that you will never be at peace with yourself, God and with that person due to your own lack of forgiveness. When we are always quick and generous to forgive others, our peace will remain intact and the flow of God's blessing into our lives will be both constant and comforting.

There are people with whom it may be difficult to get along. I have personally been in such situations many times, but in spite of it all, I have also learnt to move on with the love of God helping me to keep the relationship with them intact. There is absolutely nothing you can do to change the will or decisions of people about you. People will always have their own opinions about you. You can only change your own attitude and responses to them with prayer and in the love of God. In doing this you get to know where you are in your own walk of faith with Christ Jesus; and not based on anyone's opinions about you.

If we all have to live in this world based on how we feel about others, we wouldn't be getting along very well with anyone. Our relationship with people should be based on faith, and not on feelings. Simply because our feelings can be deceptive, and we've got to be very careful with them. Feelings do change always, but faith will never change and that is the most important key to keeping ourselves at peace with everyone. We do not ever allow people's views or attitudes to guide our lives as the children of God. We alone are responsible before God in how we are living our lives. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:18).

We are never called by Christ to please people. We are called to please God

Pastor Garry Kelly