

The Magnitude of the Need for Getting Along With Others in 1 Peter 3:8

The apostle Peter was no stranger to conflict. He fully understands from experience that whenever we put human beings in close proximity to each other, there are going to be sparks. Yet, he also knows that Almighty God has called us to learn to get along with people. Moved by his own need and the Holy Spirit, Peter writes this very practical portion of his first letter to his fellow battling believers.

Jim Cecy is a regular speaker at the European Leadership Forum. He serves as Senior Pastor-Teacher of Campus Bible Church in Fresno, California. Jim is also founder and President of JARON Ministries International, a training ministry for Christian leaders in the U.S. and abroad. He has a Masters of Divinity in Bible Exposition from Talbot Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry from Western Seminary. He is a conference and seminar speaker for hundreds of churches, schools, seminars, conference centers, Christian groups and denominations in U.S. and abroad. In addition to other books and materials, he is the author of *The Purity War: A Biblical Guide to Living in an Immoral World*. Jim has been married for forty years and has nine grandchildren. Information about his materials, books and seminars is available at www.puritywar.com

I. Acknowledging the Need, In General

- A. 1 Peter 3:8 “To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit...”

- B. Proverbs 20:3 “Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man but any fool will quarrel.”

- C. Proverbs 27:17 “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

- D. James 4:1-2 “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel.”

- E. Romans 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”

II. Admitting the Need Personally

Who are the people with whom you have the most difficulty getting along?

What have been your strategies for dealing with conflict? Are they working?