

HOW THE GOSPEL ALLOWS PEACE WITH “PEOPLE PROBLEMS”

ACTS 21:1-26

v.1-9

Problems with past relationships: Clearly, Paul had built the kind of relationships with people that were worth emulating. His friends prayed with him and cried when he left. But it wasn't always that way. Paul knew what it was like to have bad blood with others. And he made it right.

- The first thing that Paul does when he comes to a new city is to _____
_____ in Jesus. (see v. 4 and v. 7)
- When he has a past issue with one of them, he immediately _____
the broken relationship.
- If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, _____ with everyone.

It is possible to have peace about the relationship even if there's not peace in the relationship. But only when you've gone as far and owned as much as you possibly can.

ACTS 7:54-60; ROMANS 12:18

v.10-16

Problems with peer pressure: Pay attention to the times when others want something for you that you know is not what God wants for you...When something is great for others, but not right for you. Paul was unable to be dissuaded because he was sure of what God wanted for him.

- What are you so sure of that others _____ talk you out of?
- Are you able to clearly articulate what _____ for your life?
- What is your _____? What is your _____? What makes a _____
for others?

1 CORINTHIANS 10:23; MATTHEW 6:33

v.17-26

Problems with comparison: Paul was willing to be all things to all people for the sake of the gospel. He was willing to bend and flex for the sake of others. When comparing ourselves to others, we have to find our motive to maintain our foundation, so we don't lose our way.

- A true sign of Christian maturity is the ability to _____ with what God is doing
through someone else.
- I do all this for the _____ that I might share in its blessings.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23

HOW THE GOSPEL ALLOWS PEACE WITH “PEOPLE PROBLEMS”

ACTS 21:1-26

v.1-9

Problems with past relationships: Clearly, Paul had built the kind of relationships with people that were worth emulating. His friends prayed with him and cried when he left. But it wasn't always that way. Paul knew what it was like to have bad blood with others. And he made it right.

- The first thing that Paul does when he comes to a new city is to find other believers in Jesus. (see v. 4 and v. 7)
- When he has a past issue with one of them, he immediately moves toward the broken relationship.
- If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

It is possible to have peace about the relationship even if there's not peace in the relationship. But only when you've gone as far and owned as much as you possibly can.

ACTS 7:54-60; ROMANS 12:18

v.10-16

Problems with peer pressure: Pay attention to the times when others want something for you that you know is not what God wants for you...When something is great for others, but not right for you. Paul was unable to be dissuaded because he was sure of what God wanted for him.

- What are you so sure of that others cannot talk you out of?
- Are you able to clearly articulate what God wants for your life?
- What is your passion? What is your superpower? What makes a difference for others?

1 CORINTHIANS 10:23; MATTHEW 6:33

v.17-26

Problems with comparison: Paul was willing to be all things to all people for the sake of the gospel. He was willing to bend and flex for the sake of others. When comparing ourselves to others, we have to find our motive to maintain our foundation, so we don't lose our way.

- A true sign of Christian maturity is the ability to celebrate with what God is doing through someone else.
- I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I might share in its blessings.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23