

HOW TO CULTIVATE PEACE IN AN ANGRY WORLD

3 Minutes – 10:05 – 10:08

19-year-old man beat his fiancée's 11-month-old baby to death. The man had been playing a **violent video game** and lost his temper when the baby touched the game's control panel and caused the man to lose the game.

Similar reports from around the world indicate that an increasing number of people have anger problems.

Why is anger on the rise?

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Today's world is increasingly unstable and angry - Indeed, Bible foretold that ***“the last days”*** would be marked by selfishness and hatred... ***“In the last days . . . men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, . . . headstrong, puffed up with pride.”***

Many people will do whatever it takes to **get their own way**, including **violence + cruelty**. This is **true not only of individuals** but also of **entire nations**.

Indeed, when self-centred people don't get their own way, anger is often the result.

3 x Questions

1 – How Will Jehovah Permanently End Injustice?

2 – How Can We Be A Peacemaker Who Conquers Evil With Good?

3 – What Are the Blessings That Come From Cultivating Lasting Peace?

6 Minutes – 10:08 – 10:14

1 – How Will Jehovah Permanently End Injustice?

Some victims of injustice retaliate with violence - and that, in turn, fuels further anger: **CIA - “Blowback”**

***Blowback* is the unintended consequences and unwanted side-effects of an undercover operation. To the civilians suffering the blowback of undercover operations, the effect typically manifests itself as "random" acts of political violence without a discernible, direct cause; because the public—in whose name the intelligence agency acted — are unaware of the undercover secret attacks that provoked revenge (counter-attacks) against them.**

eg - One **militant suicide bomber** in a statement published after his death said:

“Until you stop the bombing, gassing, imprisonment and torture of my people we will not stop this fight.”

However, Jehovah God **hates injustice** and **promises** to end it – **Jehovah** is like a **master architect**, **designed** the future, **knows every detail** about it

READ Psalm 37:10, 11 – Notice how he describes future he has planned for the human race

“10 Just a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more; You will look at where they were, And they will not be there. 11 But the meek will possess the earth, And they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.”

PICTURE 1

Corruption, injustice, + anger are systemic in today's world – However, human political solutions and protest movements are NOT God's means of bringing justice

Down through centuries, Christians have

prayed for God's Kingdom to come so that his will can be done on this earth.

Intervention of that kingdom government, with Christ Jesus as king, will mean total destruction of demonically influenced global political system of things that governs world today.

After his kingdom government has established its authority, Christ Jesus will be used by Jehovah God to act decisively on his stated policy regarding global injustice, not just at the national level, but down to every single person alive at that time

Psalm 72:13, 14

*“**13** He will have **pity on the lowly and the poor, And the lives of the poor he will save. 14** From oppression and from violence he will rescue them, And **their blood will be precious in his eyes.**”*

Picture 1 — As the man learns about God's Kingdom, he makes changes that clearly show that he wants to cultivate real peace in his life

End Picture 1- Thank You

Bible describes time when God will remove wicked as
“the day of Jehovah’s anger”

Unlike human anger, God’ anger is **always justified**
and **never excessive** When he takes action, result
will be an ***“abundance of peace”*** earth wide -
Psalms 37:11

**Jehovah wants everyone to fully benefit to
benefit from what his governance of this
planet means for mankind. We must cooperate
with his way of correcting injustice.**

13 Minutes – 10:14 – 10:27

**2 – How Can We Be A Peacemaker
Who Conquers Evil With Good?**

**Count Leo Tolstoy – Anna Karenina –
Lunatic Asylum – Could this happen in
your home or Congregation?**

Romans 12:18-21

18 *If possible, as far as it depends on you, be peaceable with all men.*

- *“Be peaceable with all men” means doing everything reasonably possible to live at peace, taking the initiative even when the other person’s attitude is unfavourable.*

19 *Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but yield place to the wrath; for it is written: “Vengeance is mine; I will repay,” says Jehovah.”*

“Do not avenge yourselves, but yield place to the wrath” means refusing to take revenge and instead leaving all matters of justice completely in Jehovah’s capable hands.

IT Vengeance

Unless a person is qualified as executioner of vengeance by appointment of Jehovah, or by being designated as such by his Word, he does wrong if he attempts to avenge himself or others.

20 *But “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by doing this you will heap fiery*

coals on his head.”

- ***“Heap fiery coals on his head”*** is a positive metaphor drawn from the ancient practice of smelting ore. Just as hot coals are heaped on hard metal to melt and purify it, unexpected acts of kindness can soften even a hardened heart and melt away bitterness.

21 Do not let yourself be conquered by the evil, but keep conquering the evil with the good.

- ***“Do not let yourself be conquered by the evil, but keep conquering the evil with the good”*** emphasises persistent action. We must not allow the environment we are in to change a person into someone angry or bitter; instead, we remain principled + keep responding with goodness until goodness prevails.

Imagine a small campfire burning on a cold night. If more wood is thrown on it, the flames grow stronger and push back the darkness. Eventually, it warms the whole area. But if the fire is no longer fed, the darkness and cold take over. In the same way, when goodness—kindness, mildness, and

patience—is continually supplied, the “fire” of goodness grows and overcomes the coldness of evil.

Instead of wishing it was easier, wouldn't it be better to pray for a full measure of holy spirit and shift our focus...

1 Peter 2:23

“When he was being insulted, he did not insult in return. When he was suffering, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the One who judges righteously.”

How We Can Forgive and Forget?

In extreme cases, such as incest, rape, and attempted murder, forgiveness may involve a number of issues.

This would be particularly true when there is no acknowledgment of the sin, no repentance, and no apology on the part of the offender - Should a victim always be forced to forgive an unrepentant wrongdoer?

I want to forgive, but I can't forget - What should I do?

Awake: 9th June 1995 - Forgive and Forget —How Possible?

What about forgetting? We may never completely put out of mind what was done, but we can forget in the sense that we do not hold it against the offender or bring the matter up again at some future time. We do not gossip about it, nor do we completely avoid the offender. However, it may take some time for our relationship with the offender to mend, and we may not enjoy the same closeness as before.

8 Minutes – 10:08 – 10:35

3 – What Are the Blessings That Come From Cultivating Lasting Peace?

**None of us, including victims of injustice,
can change the past, but what can we do?**

**Driving Bumper car, blindfolded, hands
behind back, foot hard down on
accelerator**

**How can we have smooth and frictionless
journey into the future?**

Read Psalm 37:8-9

8 Let go of anger and abandon rage; Do not become upset and turn to doing evil.

9 For evil men will be done away with, But those hoping in Jehovah will possess the earth.

Picture 2

They have broken free from a violent course and learned to hope in Jehovah

Some have helped former opposers to change

Adrián began to study the Bible when he was 16. He said: ***“As I progressed in my Bible study, I saw the need to make changes in my personality.”*** He needed to let go of hatred and stop resorting to violence. He especially appreciated what he learned from **Romans 12:17-19** about not taking revenge. He said: ***“I came to accept that Jehovah will take care of injustice in his own way and time. Little by little, I overcame my violent lifestyle.”***

One evening, Adrián was attacked by a former rival gang. The leader shouted: ***“Defend yourself!”***

Adrián admits: ***“I felt a very strong urge to***

retaliate.”

But instead of retaliating, he said a brief prayer to Jehovah and left the area.

“The next day I encountered the gang leader by himself. Vengeful anger welled up in me, but again I silently begged Jehovah to help me control myself. To my surprise, the youth came right up to me and said: ‘Forgive me for what happened last night. The truth is, I would like to become like you. I want to study the Bible.’ How glad I was that I had been able to control my anger! Thanks to that, we began to study the Bible together.”

As Adrian changed, he began to experience a change in the attitudes of some of those around him p He became an influence for good in their lives. He was n ow proving that he wanted to fit into Jehovah's future purpose for this earth.

Picture 2 – Thank You

Conclusion

1 – How Will Jehovah Permanently End Injustice?

Because Jehovah promises to eliminate

injustice by means of his Kingdom Government - praying for more wisdom and stronger faith can change our whole outlook as we learn to wait patiently for Jehovah to act in his own time.

2 – How Can We Be A Peacemaker Who Conquers Evil With Good?

“We can follow the example of Jesus Christ who, despite everything that happened to him, entrusted himself to the One who judges righteously, Jehovah God

3 – What Are the Blessings That Come From Cultivating Lasting Peace?

As Jehovah's spirit becomes increasingly manifest in our lives, we can experience inner peace to an ever greater degree.

We invite everyone to continue associating with Jehovah's Witnesses and learning to *‘hope in Jehovah’*

Why?

If we do, we have every opportunity to learn how to cultivate peace in an increasingly angry world confident that real peace will be established earthwide in the very near future.