

Peace and Order

From Genesis to Revelation, scripture reveals a consistent truth; God desires His people to live safe, well, and in harmony. He is not the author of chaos, rebellion, or violence, but of peace, righteousness, and order. When those values are threatened, especially by individuals who intentionally stir unrest, God's word speaks with unmistakable clarity.

In the Old Testament, God plainly condemns those who fracture unity and provoke disorder among the people. Among the sins (abominations) God hates most is this one, "*One who sows discord among brethren.*" Proverbs 6:19. Sowing discord does not merely hold a difference of opinion, it is the deliberate stirring of hostility, resentment, and division that places love and communities at risk.

God established authority to protect life and restrain evil, not to be casually undermined. Solomon warned, "*An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore, a cruel messenger will be sent against him.*" Proverbs 17:11. Rebellion may be framed as courage or justice, but when it produces violence and chaos, God calls it evil.

The New Testament reinforces this same principle. Jesus did not encourage resistance through force. Instead, He taught His followers to pursue peace, even in tense and unjust circumstances. "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*" Matthew 5:9. Christians are identified not by outrage or aggression, but by their commitment to peace. This reaching is further clarified by the Apostle Paul in Romans, where Christians are instructed to respect governing authority, "*Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgement on themselves.*" Romans 13:2.

This passage does not claim that authorities are perfect, but it affirms that law and order serve God's purpose of limiting evil. Law enforcement officers, in principle, function as servants to preserve safety and protect the innocent, "*For he is God's minister to you for good.*" Romans 13:4.

When voices in society incite hostility, resistance, or harm toward law enforcement, they are not promoting peace or justice, they are sowing discord. Such rhetoric endangers officers, civilians, and entire communities. Scripture consistently judges actions by their fruit, and violence never produces the righteousness God desires.

The Apostle Peter urged Christians to live with restraint and respect, even under pressure, "*Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*" 1 Peter 2:17. Likewise, James the Apostle and brother of Jesus warned of the spiritual source behind unrest, "*For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*" James 3:16. Confusion and violence are not marks of God's work, but signs of human pride and uncontrolled anger.

This does not mean scripture ignores injustice. God is a God of justice. However, biblical justice is pursued through righteousness, truth, and lawful means, not through rebellion or bloodshed. "*Justice and righteousness are the foundation of Your throne.*" Psalm 89:14.

God calls His people to be voices of calm in a culture of chaos, lights in moments of darkness, and peacemakers when others inflame division. In every age, the choice is the same, build peace or sow discord.

Those who sow discord bring destruction. Those who pursue peace reflect the heart of God, "*Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*" James 3:18.

May God's people always choose His way, the way of peace, order, and life.