

Peace Begins When You Go Away

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One of the characteristics of fallen thinking is believing that getting rid of someone will solve your problems.

From the archangel trying to build a better world by getting rid of God, it starts. And it permeates our present world, starting with hating ourselves, with me wishing I wasn't so weak, needy, 'bad', or whatever. We lock parts of ourselves away from public view, not allowing them a voice. We stuff our 'bad' emotions away where we hope no one will see them.

Growing up I felt 'I'd be a lot happier if my older brother would just go away.' Later, I felt my world will be better if I can just get rid of my parents. Or that we'll be better people if we can eliminate anything that's like my mother or father.

I don't think I'm alone in this.

Later, happiness can seem to hinge on getting rid of our boyfriend/girlfriend, or our husband/wife. I'll be fine just as soon as I can get rid of _____. My family will be fine if we get our rebellious child to move out.

Our community will improve if we can just get rid of the weird/poor/troublesome/homeless people, pick one. Send them somewhere else, or lock them up and throw away the key or just harass them until they leave.

My business will be great when I eliminate all my competitors. My commute will be better when that slow s.o.b gets out of my way. I wish I could just bazooka them away.

Our country will be better just as soon as we get rid of our leader or destroy that other political party. We should bomb country x into the stone age, that'll make the world a better place.

Our community has had as a slogan "Peace Begins with Me". In the fallen world it's more like "Peace Begins when You Go Away."

The key to resolving this is a family heart and attitude. Our Heavenly Parents could not just kill Adam and Eve and start over again. It's taken so long exactly because every life is precious, and no one is worthless.

This is not to say that we never, in an ideal world, change leaders, let employees go or abort a fetus that has severe health problems. But the heart with which we do it is the key. Do we wish them well and pray they will be blessed in their lives?

We often get so focused on getting rid of someone that we don't think of who will replace them. Many times, revolutions produce worse leaders than the one they overthrew because we're just focused on the getting rid of part. Instead of "Let's get rid of X", it would be "Y can help us much better. Let's put them in charge. X, thank you very much for all you've done."

True Parents teach that the model for the whole universe is the family. Families stretch, embrace and absorb all kinds of people, and we share joy at each other's progress. You don't get to choose your parents, and they don't get to choose their children either, no more than you get to choose your own siblings. In that sense, families bound together by love and blood don't have ex-members.

In fallen thinking, the problem is always someone else, so logically, if we just get rid of them we'll be ok. Separation and divorce naturally follow, and the culmination of "Peace Begins when You Go Away" is to kill the person who bothers you or to commit suicide, because 'My world will be better off without them'. Or 'The world will be better off without me'.

Even in writing this, I feel an inner voice saying "But nobody knows how to help schizophrenics, sociopaths, drug addicts. We can't take care of them all and still function." Having experienced these things firsthand, I'm not trivializing these problems with cutesy spiritual poetry. I know it can sound like that, but when our viewpoint changes profoundly, we can suddenly see solutions to previously 'insoluble' problems. We thought the solutions didn't exist because we couldn't see them. They were always there; our viewpoint was not clear enough to see them.

This is why we need to apply the things that make a family work to the rest of our society. If a leader is advocating what amounts to national divorce, that won't work. We don't solve our problems by getting rid of people.

There's more to this, but I'll stop here for now.