**Elder Berry Ross June 3, 2018**

**Principles for Peaceful Christian Living**

James 4:1-10

**Key Truth:** There can be no true peace in life absent an authentic loving relationship with God and fellow believers.

1. What in the world are you fighting for?
2. Hostility is a matter of the heart.
3. A tainted heart leads to division in the Church.
4. A malice heart causes wars from within our souls.
5. Friendship with the world is no place for Christians.
6. The world is a system that does not subscribe to God’s Lordship.
7. The world does not believe in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
8. Friends with the world live in hostility toward God.
9. Peaceful living begins with grace.
10. No human has the strength to renounce the world on his own.
11. The unmerited favor of God is the only thing you can’t earn.
12. The pathway to peace with God and other believers.
13. Confessyour pride with all humility.
14. Repent, turn away from your pride.
15. Begin to grieve over your sinful ways.
16. Come under the authority ofGod.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Walk in peace today by living to please God.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

You’ve likely been involved in a foolish fight that you knew was silly. Why do we prolong silly fights?

Read Isaiah 58:1-14: Answer the questions: What is God angry about?

What are the people angry about?

What is the people’s responsibility?

What is God’s responsibility?

Look through Genesis 4:1-8. What led Cain to kill his brother? Why can we simply not afford to let jealousy and sinful desires continue unchecked (see verse 7)?

How would you respond to someone who chases sinful desires with excuses like, “live and let live,” or “I’m just pursuing my own truth”?

Which relationship in your life could benefit from greater humility?

How could actively celebrating people instead of judging them and being jealous of them lead to opportunities for you to share the grace of God with them?

How does being in love with the things of the world harm our relationship with God? Is there anything you need to change about your relationships with people or your desires for things as a result of being taught by God’s Word?