

The Bond of Humanity - I

“If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other” St. Mother Teresa

World peace; is it possible...or is it just a dream which can never be realized in our world today? If our hearts are closed to experiencing the beauty of God in others, and if our hearts are closed in expressing the beauty of God to others, then how can we ever achieve peace, if we refuse to be open to being loved and to love?

“If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts. We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence.” Pope Francis [Evangelii Gaudium 264]

**“Closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God.”
Pope Benedict XVI [Deus Caritas Est 16]**

**“Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God. Whenever our eyes are opened to acknowledge the other, we grow in the light of faith and knowledge of God.”
Pope Francis [Evangelii Gaudium 272]**

Love starts with the openness of our hearts to God. This openness requires that we surrender all feelings of anger, fear, resentment and distrust. If we truly long for greater and lasting peace in our lives, then we must be open and ready to accept the road to peace. Along this journey we will be asked to let go of our own selfishness, our desires and we will need to seek forgiveness where we have done wrong and we will need to share forgiveness where it has yet to be shared. The road to peace is long, hard and unsteady, but what greater cause do we have to fight for than peace and unity among all people?

*Jesus,
through the mercy of Your undying love,
soften whatever hardness of my heart that may exist,
so that I can learn to love all without distinction or hesitation.
May I become the embodiment of Your desire for peace,
that is only obtained through the perfection of love.
Enrich my heart with a fire to love beyond the restraints of fear
to embrace all whom I encounter with a true embrace of unity.
And through the bond of humanity
may Your presence be known to all who dare to love.*

AMEN