

What role does Christianity/Biblical teaching play in promoting a harmonious society?

Answer: The Christ-follower is the ONLY human on earth given the supernatural capacity and power to fulfill the divine requirements for **harmony and peace**. For any individual to have the ability to fulfill God's commanded Law of Love, such an individual must be "born again" and **given, as a supernatural gift, the desire and ability** to love God and love their neighbors.

Think with us for a moment. What best virtues would make up the most harmonious and peaceful society? The first and most important virtue would be LOVE.

When a person believes and trusts in Jesus Christ and determines to follow Him, that individual is given a New Spirit which is the very Spirit of Jesus Christ. This placing of Jesus' Spirit in the heart of an individual is accomplished by the Holy Spirit of God and is aptly described as being "born again."

Just as a natural baby is born into this world with the distinctive marks, characteristics and attributes of their parents, so it is with the "supernatural birth". Christ-followers are given the very characteristics of Jesus Christ and the power to exercise those characteristics.

What are some of these "supernatural attributes" Christ-followers receive?

- Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace**, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
- Romans 13:10 **Love does no harm to a neighbor**; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13 **Love suffers long and is kind**; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but **the greatest of these is love**.

As you can plainly see, these attributes and characteristics of Christ only produce the desire to **love our neighbors and do them good**. This is how Christianity produces harmony and peace in any society. We CANNOT love Jesus Christ WITHOUT loving our neighbor and doing them good at every opportunity.

This truth is so important that Jesus reduced it down to a single sentence: One cannot become a Christ-follower WITHOUT being born again [supernaturally given the Spirit of Jesus and brought into God's eternal family].

- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, **I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

God never gives His creation any command which does NOT also **carry the power to accomplish**. God has commanded you, me and every person ever born into this world to Love our Neighbors! It is this love from Jesus Christ which brings forth and promotes lasting peace and harmony. This love is the ONLY source from which lasting harmony and peace can come into our lives to truly change our human relationships.

God's Royal Decree - the Law of Love -

- Mark 12:29-31 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And **you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Jesus perfectly fulfilled these two greatest commandments. When an individual is "born again" they are given the very **Spirit of Christ** which ignites the desire and the power to love God and people JUST AS Jesus, Himself, loves God and loves all people.

Christ-like love is the ONLY source to produce harmony and peace between God and our neighbors. When we want the best for all people, we will want to give them that which will bring into their lives the best possible treasure, not only in this temporary earthly life but also in the next life, the eternal one.

Christ-followers have the ONLY true key to be able to open the storehouse of treasure containing harmony and peace.

What shall we do with this greatest of all treasures? **We should give it away!**

We want to tell as many people as possible about Jesus who, alone, brings harmony and peace into fearful, discouraged, oppressed, guilt-ridden human hearts.

Jesus alone brings peace and produces true eternal harmony. Jesus brings reconciliation and peace with God whom we have rebelled against and have been separated from because of our sin. Jesus **is the Source** [the unceasing, ever flowing Fountain of Life] **from which we draw out Love to pour out to help our neighbors** who are heavily burdened with the cares of life and their past guilt of harming their neighbors.

- John 4:10,13-14,25-26 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and **He would have given you living water.**"... Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that **I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**"...The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am He.**"

*This **LOVE for Christ and from Christ** is the only source which produces lasting peace and harmony.*

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