



### **Going Home for Christmas (Peace)**

Luke 2:14; Isaiah 9:6; Proverbs 19:11; Ephesians 2:6; 4:1-3, 31-32

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Brian Lightsey

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. (NIV)

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.... And he will be called...Prince of Peace. (NIV)

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)

As a Follower of Jesus, I have peace with God (spiritual peace) that leads to peace with people (relational peace).

Which family member do I dread seeing this Christmas?

Proverbs 19:11 Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. (ESV)

**With God's help:**

**I will say NO to overreacting to smaller offenses.**

This means I will not be so easily offended.

**I will say YES to overlooking the larger offenses.**

This does not mean I deny or minimize them.

It means I will pass over them and let them go.

"Whenever anyone has offended me I try to raise my soul so high that the offense cannot reach it." – Rene Descartes

Ephesians 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Overlooking is the key to overcoming.

**The answer to unforgiveness is worship.**

Matthew 5:23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. 25 Settle matters quickly..." (NIV)

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.... 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (NIV)

**I can have peace with others this Christmas when I:**

▪ **Open the Gift of Humility.**

When I open this gift, I can realize I sin, too.

▪ **Open the Gift of Gentleness.**

When I open this gift, I can be controlled.

▪ **Open the Gift of Patience.**

When I open this gift, I can be slow to anger.

▪ **Open the Gift of Forbearance.**

When I open this gift, I can persevere with people.

▪ **Open the Gift of Love.**

When I open this gift, I can love because I am loved.

▪ **Open the Gift of Kindness.**

When I open this gift, I can be good to them.

▪ **Open the Gift of Compassion.**

When I open this gift, I can see that they are broken and human, too.

▪ **Open the Gift of Forgiveness.**

When I open this gift, I can forgive because I am forgiven.

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone....15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. (NIV)

**Bitterness has a dangerous root that grows poisonous fruit.**

Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (NIV)

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (NIV)

**Commitment: I will not open gifts with a closed heart.**