

## CIVIL DISCOURSE AND THE BIBLE: Relevant Scripture Passages

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness.”

Leviticus 19:18 You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (also: Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31 and James 2:8)

Ecclesiastes 9:17 The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools.

Micah 6:8 What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:43-44 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (also: Luke 6:27)

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (also: Luke 6:31)

Mark 3:24-25 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

Luke 6:37; 41-42 Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven... Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.

2 Thessalonians 3:15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

James 1:19 Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

James 3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

1 Peter 3:8-11 Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it.