

Be the Change You Want

Pastor Hank

Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:17-18

I have never met anyone who was completely satisfied with the world the way it is. That's not surprising; the world has problems, lots of them, and most of them stem from the way people act—you and I included. Most of us would like to see things change—especially people of faith who have heard the biblical call to justice for all God's people.

We'd like to see more fairness, more compassion, more kindness. We'd like to see less anger, less self-centeredness, less greed. We'd like to see our society be a place where everyone had a fair chance at the good things of life—safe communities, enough to eat, a good and safe place to live, good educational and job opportunities, adequate health care. We would like to see our society be a place that finally found a way to end poverty and all the problems that come with poverty. We'd like to see an end to everything that diminishes, damages or destroys anyone's life. We would like to be done with all the "isms" that plague our society—racism, sexism, ageism, classism and the like. We'd like to see a common and genuine regard for the dignity of all God's people.

Such a world, of course, is not just going to happen. It needs people who are willing to help make it happen. Mahatma Gandhi once wisely counseled those who yearned for a better world to "be the change you want." What might happen if in our families and friendships, in the workplace, in our community involvements we followed his advice and became the change we wanted?

Prayer: Loving God, help me to translate my longing for a better, more just, more loving world into the way I do life. Amen