

# 1 Peter 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

## Analysis

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Peter continues Psalm 34 quotation with ethical imperatives. "Let him eschew evil, and do good" (ekklinatō apo kakou kai poiēsatō agathon)—turn from evil, actively pursue good. Holiness is both negative (avoiding sin) and positive (doing righteousness). The focus: "let him seek peace, and ensue it" (zētēsatō eirēnēn kai diōxatō autēn). "Seek" (zētēsatō) means search for, pursue. "Ensue" (diōxatō) means chase after, pursue vigorously—same word used for persecution. Believers should pursue peace as energetically as enemies pursue them. This requires active effort, not passive waiting.

## Historical Context

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In conflict-ridden world, peace is elusive, requiring intentional pursuit. Peter calls Christians to be peace-makers (echoing Matthew 5:9), actively working toward reconciliation and harmony. This applies personally (pursue peace in relationships) and corporately (work for church unity). Ancient world knew little peace—constant wars, factional conflicts, personal vendettas. Christian commitment to peace-making distinguished early church. This didn't mean pacifism in all situations but active pursuit of harmony, reconciliation, and unity wherever possible without compromising truth.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What specific steps can you take this week to actively 'pursue peace' in a conflicted relationship?
2. How can you distinguish between pursuing peace and compromising truth or enabling evil?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐκκλινάτω ἀπὸ κακοῦ καὶ ποιησάτω ἀγαθόν ζητησάτω

Let him eschew G575 evil and do good let him seek

G1578

G2556

G2532

G4160

G18

G2212

εἰρήνην καὶ διωξάτω αὐτήν.

peace and ensue it

G1515

G2532

G1377

G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 5:9** (Peace): Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

**Psalms 34:14** (Peace): Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

**Hebrews 12:14** (Peace): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

**Colossians 3:15** (Peace): And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

**Romans 14:17** (Peace): For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

**Romans 14:19** (Peace): Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

**Romans 12:18** (Peace): If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

**Hebrews 13:16** (Good): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

**Psalms 37:27** (Evil): Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

**Romans 8:6** (Peace): For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

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