

Pastor's Column

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A Family Covenant of Nonviolence

As events on the global stage continue to unfold, we may find ourselves seemingly powerless in somehow making a difference in regard to the “bigger picture.”

It is true that most of us will not have a direct role in these global events, but we are not powerless. There are many things that each of us can do, right here and right now, that can make a difference to bring more justice, peace, and reconciliation to our global village.

As we continue through October, “Respect Life Month,” the “*Family Covenant of Nonviolence*” which is being promoted by the Baptist Peace Fellowship is something upon which it would be good for us to reflect. I share this with you and encourage families to talk about these ideals and choose them as a way of living and being. In doing so, we are responding to world events in a positive way and we are making a difference.

Family Covenant of Nonviolence

Making peace can start with our family. Each of us commits ourselves to the following covenant terms, in obedience to our Lord who named peacemakers as “the children of God.”

TO COMMUNICATE BETTER

To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger, and to work at solving problems peacefully

TO LISTEN

To listen carefully to each other, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others’ feelings and needs rather than insisting on having my own way

TO RESPECT OTHERS

To affirm one another and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, and physical attacks

TO FORGIVE

To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges

TO RESPECT NATURE

To treat the environment and all living things, especially our pets, with respect and care

TO PLAY CREATIVELY

To select entertainment that supports our family’s values and to avoid entertainment and toys that makes violence look exciting, funny, or acceptable

TO BE COURAGEOUS

To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work, or in the community; and to support others who are treated unfairly.

F. A. Mike