

The Misconception of Peace

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What is peace? Peace is the tolerance of other countries and the personalities of other people. A peaceful person accepts other qualities and comprehends the intrinsic value inside every other individual. Peace is often seen as the absence of war, but even in those times, bitterness is seen in every aspect of civilization. There is no such thing as universal peace, therefore; but what we can do is establish a society of forbearance and recognition for people being who they are.

When I visited China over the summer, I experienced an extremely humbling experience. I visited perhaps the most destitute of areas in China, a place wrecked and dirty. However, the children were smiling and playing together, families close and bonded, and yet, every house was covered with dirt, every knife rusted and grimy, every wall full of moss. In this area of China, a place hardly anyone will explain as “peaceful,” I discovered a great amount of tolerance and forbearance in every single person. In reality, this could be the most peaceful place on earth. More often than not, the calm night of a city is described as “peaceful,” when in reality thousands of children are crying, people are threatened by gangs, and men are weighed by debt. This place in China symbolizes a place where everyone was tolerating one another and appreciating every person for who they are.

In China, I visited one particular family, and experienced a story of sadness, hope, and love. My family and I drove along a dusty road, and turned a corner into a small hut. Inside was a

relatively plump father, a mother, and a pretty young girl, listening to the small ramshackle TV that they had. As we walked in, the small family hurried to make us comfortable, beckoning for us to sit on a dirty couch. Then, my parents and the adults began to discuss.

It turns out, the dad was diagnosed with brain cancer, and the doctors in this area were not very apt in their job. They caused a brain malfunction, as well as revealing there was no cancer. At this time, their elder daughter was in college, and she was apparently the smartest in the class. As soon as she heard the news, she quit college – the chance she had to begin a good life – and began to work at a nearby city to raise money for her father. At this point, the two parents began to tear up as they recalled the loyalty and love their daughter had for them. Peace isn't no warfare in the world – it is a word describing love and contentment with everyone around you.

Instead of aiming only for no more global warfare, we need to begin to develop a society without moral conflict, a society where every person is valued for who they are. This is true peace, the benevolent guide to a perfect society. By helping out people in need, such as the girl in China, we can help make a world of tolerance and love, a world where every person is a sibling to one another, striving together to make the world a better place.