

PEACE AND HOLINESS—HEBREWS 12:14–17

Pastor Greg Stiekas

In Hebrews 12:13–14 the author encourages the church to stay in the race by keeping their feet on the path of righteousness so that they may have healing. But now the author begins to show them what righteousness and healing look like, first by admonishing them to urgently pursue *peace* and *holiness*. These two virtues go hand in hand: for the church cannot have true peace without holiness; nor can the church have true holiness without peace. How does the church pursue these dual virtues? By looking out for one another, watching carefully for three damaging problems:

1. We must watch carefully for false conversion.

lest anyone fall short of the grace of God (12:15a)

2. We must watch carefully for apostasy.

lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble . . . (12:15b)

3. We must watch carefully for worldliness.

lest there be any fornicator or profane person . . . (12:16–17)