

INNOCENT AS DOVES

MATTHEW 10:15

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

# OUTLINE

# MATTHEW 10:15

Introduction

INNOCENCE means "we must be harmless."

INNOCENCE means "we must be gentle."

INNOCENCE means "we must be peaceful."

Conclusion

Invitation

# INTRODUCTION

MATTHEW 10:15

Doves are the antithesis of serpents  
(sheep/wolves).

Some versions translate "harmless," "gentle,"  
or "pure"

INNOCENT means  
"harmless"

MATTHEW 10:15

Doves never prey on other birds.

HARMLESS

How do we evangelize without harming?

**Ephesians 4:15**



- 1) Honest presentation of the gospel
- 2) Demonstrate love toward audience

INNOCENT means  
"harmless"

MATTHEW 10:15

HARMLESS

Paul provides our example.

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

Being dovelike maintains our integrity.



**Philippians 2:15**; Christ-dovelike **Hebrews 7:26**

INNOCENT means  
"gentle"

MATTHEW 10:15

Doves are portrayed with gentle dispositions,  
often unobtrusive.

How is our disposition as we evangelize?

**Philippians 1:10**, "That ye may approve  
things that are excellent; that ye may be  
sincere and without offense till the day of  
Christ."



INNOCENT means  
"gentle"

MATTHEW 10:15

Our conduct must match our confession.

**Matthew 5:16-** Shining our light and blinding others by it are not the same.

**Romans 12:17-** "Provide things honest in the sight of men."

**1 Peter 2:21-23**



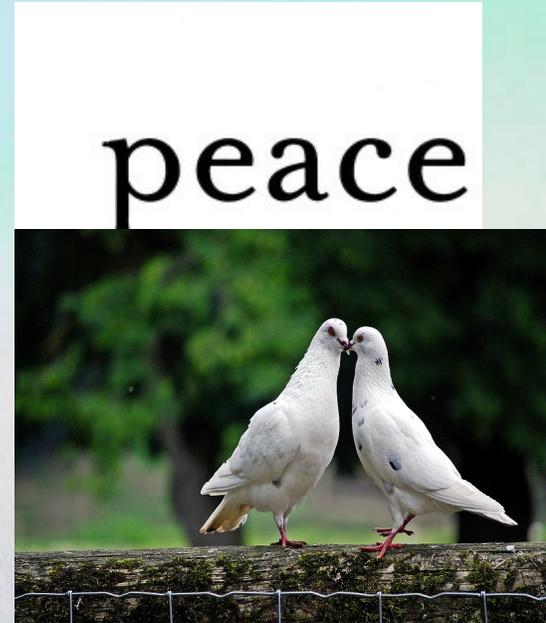
INNOCENT means  
"peaceful"

MATTHEW 10:15

Doves are the symbol of hope and peace.

**James 3:17-** Godly wisdom is "...first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, fully of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

peace



INNOCENT means  
"peaceful"

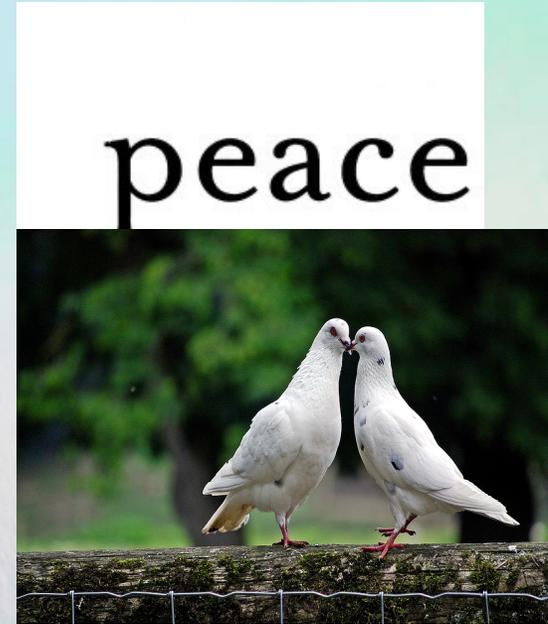
MATTHEW 10:15

**John 14:27-** As with wisdom, peace is a gift from God.

**Romans 12:18-** We are to live peaceably.

**Matthew 5:9-** We are blessed for living such as life.

peace



# CONCLUSION

MATTHEW 10:15

- We will be judged by our knowledge, opportunity and activity.
- **Matthew 18:3**, "...Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

# INVITATION

MATTHEW 10:15

## What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- Hear the gospel
- Believe the gospel
- Repent of Sin
- Confess the name of Christ
- Submit to Baptism
- Live Faithfully

## How Can I Return?

Repent of Sin  
Confess Sins  
Pray Forgiveness  
Live Faithfully