

CHOICES

Every one of us makes choices every day of our lives.

Sometimes our choice is not to choose.

Other times we make decisions (choices) as to what we eat, what we wear, where we go, who we see, and how we think about such things as the news we see on TV or rumors about how someone was treated by the local court system.

Choice is unavoidable.

Human life is a process of making choices, one choice after another, a chain of life, link upon link, advancing toward our ultimate destiny ... where we will arrive as a result of our daily choices.

Living is choosing.

From the choice to get out of bed in the morning to the choice of going back to bed at night, every one of us makes choices.

Choosing.

You made the choice to read these words, and you may make the choice (or not) to read on.

When two or more of us make the same choice, e.g., electing to see the world around us in some similar way, we become more than individuals. We become a collective.

When the collective acts because of common choices its member individuals have made, we have a new and separate event in human history. Not one is acting but two or more.

When all members of the collective think and act similarly within the framework of the collective's shared choices, i.e., within the scope of the collective's philosophy, the individual is marginalized.

When an individual chooses to think independently of the collective and to act in accordance with an individual point of view instead of the shared view of the collective, the individual threatens the collective. This may work good for the collective, if the collective can shift its point of view to include the individual.

Otherwise, it works badly for the individual, who is often excluded from the collective and its cooperative benefits or even eliminated by some violent act altogether as has too many times occurred in our human history.

How then do we measure the progress of justice and peace?

You choose.