

## Study Guide for Chautauqua Lecture Video: Paul K. Chappell on Why World Peace is Possible

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Paul K. Chappell presents his audience with many interconnecting threads as he discusses why peace in the world is possible. He frames this talk by proposing that we should be working towards Peace Literacy and as we become literate in peace, we will gain the skills and understanding necessary to heal the root causes of our problems. Creating Peace Literacy will fundamentally change our current culture.

1. In earlier works, Chappell sees the art of honest persuasion as a primary way to change people's minds. How does Chappell use the past to open us to the possibility of thinking differently? In other words, how does he persuade us to think differently?
2. What led Chappell to realize the need to wage peace? Discuss the role of trauma and its important effect on human behavior and thinking. Discuss the links between reducing trauma and reducing violence.
3. How does Chappell use history to help us see how our behavior and thinking is the same? How they have changed?
4. Discuss Chappell's references to past prejudices. What examples does he give that have changed over time? Why is this relevant to his argument?
5. What are some of the ways that Chappell cites that allow us to cause harm to other people and sentient beings? Cite some of the examples he gives in his talk.  
Resource: Rachel MacNair, *Psychology of Peace*, Praeger Publishers, 2003.
6. What are his ideas about truth? How does objective scientific truth relate to peace and progress? Is it correct to say that it is scientifically true that the Irish and Africans are not subhuman?
7. Change happens over time, sometimes taking decades. Chappell suggests that we may not have the same kind of time to create change, since we are confronting issues that threaten our survival. He asks the question: "Will truth prevail in time?" What are your thoughts about this statement?
8. Discuss some of the issues that we might be wrong about today. What are some of the issues in our time that people in the future will look upon as we today look upon past issues such as slavery and human sacrifice?
10. Chappell makes the statement: "We are preliterate in peace." What does this statement mean to you?

11. What is Peace Literacy? Why is it important?

12. Chappell makes the statement that most human conflict is caused by people feeling disrespected. Do you agree? Can you name examples where you felt disrespected and this made you angry or caused conflict? Are there other root causes of violent conflict that you can think of? What role does shame play?

13. How does one model respect? Chappell cites one universal sign of respect. What is that and why is that crucial?

14. What does Chappell mean when he says that listening requires empathy? What does it mean to listen with empathy?

15. What is Chappell's overall message? Have any aspects of his arguments allowed you to rethink your beliefs?

16. Chappell offers two possible futures and asks us to think what people in the future would think of us. What are the two possible futures that he suggests? Discuss the relevance of each future to the idea of Peace Literacy.