

**The Rustenberg declaration: 1990 Christian leaders from 85 churches in South Africa met together in reconciliation prior to the democratic transition**

"In both Old and New Testaments God's peace or shalom speaks of a comprehensive wholeness and rightness in all relationships, including those between God and his people, between human and human and between human and creation. In South Africa, peace and shalom are shattered, not only by personal but also by structural sin. The consequences are devastating: racial alienation, mistrust, humiliation, exploitation of humans and the environment, privation of basic needs, denial of self-worth. Perhaps most devastating has been the emergence of a social climate in which violence and death rather than co-operation and life have become the norm."<sup>i</sup>

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