

Lesson 3

The Fruit of the Spirit - Peace

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

1. Using a dictionary, define peace.

2. What would peace look like in each of the following situations?
 - Countries at war

 - A violent storm

 - Couples in conflict

 - A home where children are being reared

For Discussion:

- A. Think about your life, what areas are you in need of God providing you with His peace?

- B. Fruit is a byproduct of growth. If a tree is in the right environment and receiving the proper nutrients it will bear fruit. Keeping this in mind, how can we be assured of having peace in the midst of the storms of life?

C. Describe the ideal environment for a Christian to grow and become fruitful.

The word translated peace in Galatians 5:22 is used over 85 times in the New Testament. The Hebrew word shalom is found over 200 times in the Old Testament. Clearly the Bible has a lot to say about peace.

Peace with God

The Bible explains that sin puts man at enmity with God. In other words we are living opposed to God. Jesus was sent into the world to remove sin so man could know God.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

1. Define the word justified
2. According to Paul how is a person justified before God?
3. How is peace with God made possible?
4. According to Romans 5:10, why do we need peace with God?

Read Romans 5:2

1. According to Paul, in addition to peace what else does faith in Christ provide?
2. Define the word access.

3. What does the believer have access to?

Read Hebrews 4:16

For Discussion:

A. What should we do with the access that has been provided for us?

B. What is promised to those who access God through prayer?

Peace Within

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

1. How is the peace the world provides and the peace Jesus provides different from one another?

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

2. What things are promised in this verse?

3. Define the word tribulation

For Discussion:

A. Why is having the peace of God important in times of tribulation?

B. Can you think of a story from the Bible where a person has peace in the midst of a very difficult situation?

Read Romans 8:6

1. Define the word carnal.

2. What does it mean to be carnally minded?

3. What does it mean to be spiritually minded?

4. How might you be spiritually minded on a daily basis?

5. How will being spiritually minded result in peace?

6. Think about David facing Goliath, how did he exemplify being spiritually minded?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:33

Sometimes a lack of peace is evidence that we are doing something wrong. *Read 1 Samuel 16:14-17.* Saul lacked peace because of disobedience.

7. How did he try to cover up his anxiety?

8. What should he have done?

For Discussion:

A. Is there any areas of your life where you lack peace because you are not behaving as you should?

Read Philippians 4:6-7

Paul gives the remedy for anxiety.

1. What does he tell us not to do?
2. What does he tell us to do?
3. How does he tell us to do it?
4. What does he say will be the result?

For Discussion:

A. Make a list of the things that you worry about.

Take that list and compare it to who God is. For example I might worry about my kids when they are not in my care so I will think about how much God Loves them, about how He is omnipresent and with them all the time, how he created them with a purpose and promises to use all things to mold them into the image of Jesus. Then I will pray and ask God to do the things He promises to do.

Peace with Others

Read Ephesians 2:14

1. Jesus made it possible for us to have peace with God, ourselves, and others. What things can we do to restore broken relationships?
2. What role does forgiveness play in restoring broken relationships?
3. Is there anyone you need to forgive in order for relationship to be restored?
4. Is there anyone you need to apologize to?

For Discussion:

Read Romans 14:19

A. Define the word pursue.

B. How can we pursue peace personally?

C. How can we pursue peace with others?

A Message of Peace

Read Luke 2:14

1. What message did the angels say Jesus would bring to the world?

For Discussion:

Read Ephesians 6:15

- A. The message of the gospel is that people can have their sins forgiven and be restored into relationship with God. Each Christian plays a part in that. How does the image of putting on gospel shoes illustrate our part in sharing the gospel?
- B. With whom have you shared Christ with lately?
- C. Pray and look for an opportunity to share Jesus with someone this week. Share your experience