

Flint Hills Bible Church
Biblical Soul Care Sunday School
Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

I. Introduction

1. Peace is a word and concept that is used in many different contexts. What are some of the common uses or phrases with the word peace?

2. How does the world seek peace?

3. How is that different from how believers seek peace?

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) — ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Objectives:

We will consider a biblical understanding of peace.

We will explore the peace that is available to every believer.

II. What is peace?

The word translated peace in Galatians 5:22 is the Greek word *eirene* and it can mean the absence of hostility and conflict, harmony in relationships, wholeness in health, and general well being.

One Author says this:

“Peace denotes the wholeness, soundness, and well-being that characterizes God and that God created in the world. As peace was broken due to human sin, such well-being constitutes the hope for ultimate restoration by God.” (*Lexham Theological Workbook*)

4. What implications can we draw from this quote for counseling people who have no peace?

5. How is the word peace used in the following verses:

Matthew 10:34 -

Mark 5:34 -

John 16:33 -

Acts 9:31 -
Acts 12:20 -
Romans 1:7 -
1 Corinthians 14:33 -
2 Thessalonians 3:16 -

6. Is it possible to live in complete peace with all people?

7. How can a desire for peace lead us to wrong decisions and even sin?

Summary: Everyone wants peace. We would love to live in an enduring sense of wholeness, absence of conflict, and general well-being and tranquility. This is not the experience of most people we interact with.

But here on a Sunday morning, in church together, we should be a people characterized by peace. We enjoy peace with God, peace among one another, peace in the midst of trouble and trials. We should experience a taste of heaven on earth. It is one important reason why Sundays ought to be our favorite day of the week! We come to worship the God of peace who extends peace to His people- both individually and also among one another.

This morning we will discuss the different aspects of peace available to a believer. Starting with vertical peace.

III. Vertical Peace

The first and most important aspect of peace in Scripture is our need for peace with God. If we do not have peace with God, there is no chance of true peace in our lives. To answer the question “Why don’t we have a sense of peace in our communities? Or “Why is there such hostility, fear, and anxiety?” we should look no further than the hostility of sin against our Creator.

Romans 1:18-32

Romans 1:21–24 (ESV) — ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

Romans 2:9–10 (ESV) — ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

8. According to Paul, what is the reason we don't have peace?

9. What will be the result of our lack of peace?

10. What should we expect from God? What do we actually get?

Luke 2:13–14 (ESV) — ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Ephesians 1:3–6 (ESV) — ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

11. Compare and contrast what God has done to make peace vs. how people tend to make peace:

Colossians 1:19–22 (ESV) — ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

12. How has peace been achieved between God and His people?

Romans 5:1–4 (ESV) — ¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope

13. How do we access this peace with God?

Summary:

What mercy and grace and love! Peace with God - the restoration of harmony, wholeness, the removal of hostility, the forgiveness of our rebellion. There is no more important state to be in than in a state of peace with the God of the universe! But God's grace and kindness does not stop there. He offers us His peace!

IV. Inner Peace

Judges 6:22–24 (ESV) — ²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” ²³ But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

14. What does it mean for God to be the God of peace?

John 14:27 (ESV) — 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 hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

15. What kind of peace did Jesus have? Why did he have it?

16. What would (should) it look like to have Christ's peace?

Philippians 4:6–7 (ESV) — ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

17. How do we access God's peace according to Philippians 4?

Isaiah 26:3–4 (ESV) — ³ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴ Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

18. What is the role of faith in experiencing the peace of God in our lives?

V. Horizontal Peace

Romans 12:18 (ESV) — ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Hebrews 12:14 (ESV) — ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

19. According to Romans 12 and Hebrews 12, how should we value peace amongst ourselves?

Peace at home:

1 Corinthians 7:15–16 (ESV) — ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶ For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

20. How can peace affect our families?

Peace at church :

Ephesians 2:14–19 (ESV) — ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

21. Why should there be peace amongst Christians?

Romans 14:17–19 (ESV) — ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

22. How can we pursue peace amongst one another?

1 Thessalonians 5:12–15 (ESV) — ¹² We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love

because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

23. How did Paul promote peace in this text?

See also: Mark 9:50, 1 Cor. 14:33

Summary:

Peace is in short supply often in our lives as believers. But God has given us a remarkable offer of peace - Peace with God, experiencing the Peace of God, and the mandate to pursue peace with one another. Let's pursue what makes for peace as we worship the Lord together.