

If you had to be convicted of being a Christian, would they find enough evidence to convict you.

Galations 5:22-23 NLT *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

The peace of God is not a feeling, but it's knowing you're doing the right thing.

Matthew 5:9 NLT *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."*

We often confuse a peacemaker with a peacekeeper.

A peacekeeper will try to avoid conflict at all costs to keep peace.

A peacemaker will combat conflict to make peace.

Mark 4:35-41 NLT *"As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's cross to the other side of the lake.'" So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the*

wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

"Peace be still" was not the original plan. Going to the other side was.

Proverbs 28:25 ESV *"A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the Lord will be enriched."*

Are we making excuses for our envy?

Do we put more value on things instead of the people that own the things we're coveting after?

Colossians 3:15 ESV *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*

"Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns; I am thankful that thorns have roses." - Alphonse Karr

James 3:16 KJV *"For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."*

"When you are full of pride on the inside, it makes you stiff, stubborn, and creates strife with others." John C. Maxwell

Strife is like an infection, and drama is how it's spread.

Philippians 4:8-9 *And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.*

2 Corinthians 10:5 NLT *"...We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ."*

Bitterness starts when somebody hurts us, or when we take someone else's hurt.

Matthew 6:14-15 NLT *"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

Forgiveness is not one big action... Forgiveness is taking steps towards not harboring resentment towards others.

Colossians 3:15 AMPC *And let the peace from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts...*

Umpire means: One having authority to decide finally a controversy or questions between parties.