



1



Aim for [redacted]  
[redacted] one another,  
[redacted] with one another,  
live in [redacted]  
and the God of  
love and peace  
will be [redacted] [redacted]

2 Corinthians 13:11 ESV

**Pop quiz on this week's memory verse – kids level two  
. . . can you supply the missing words?**

**TR: I hope you desire the God of love and peace to be  
with you, so you . . .**



Aim for restoration,  
comfort one another,  
agree with one another,  
live in peace;  
and the God of  
love and peace  
will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11 ESV

## READ SLIDE

**TR: The Peace Initiative will fail if we only have the how-to but not the want-to, as we discussed last week. But . . .**



**. . . it will also fail if we allow ourselves to be satisfied with cheap knock-offs.**

**TR: I can testify that . . .**



**. . . Crust is a real thing, at least it was when we went to Yemen.**

**-- Knock-offs may look a lot like the real thing, and often they are OK replacements, like the generic version of products . . .**

**TR: . . . BUT, when it comes to relationships, we want**

**to make sure that . . .**

**5**

**“DON’T BE SWINDLED  
BY THE KNOCK-OFFS”**



**. . . we aren’t swindled by cheap imitations.**

**TR: We must all recognize our desire to get a good deal  
. . . and the Evil One is a great but crooked salesman.  
We must see afresh that he is selling . . .**



**. . . genuine fake watches.**

**-- Imagine finding what you think you are looking for online, but at a fraction of the cost you can find it anywhere else. Do you buy it?**

**-- How do we know if something is a fake, a knock-off, an imitation, a deception?**

**-- OR just a good deal?**

**TR: I'm not as worried about whether you buy a knock-off Bolex watch, or an Apple product with two bites taken out of the apple . . .**

# PEACE & LOVE

8



**. . . but whether we have or are even tempted to give in to the sales pitch for a peace and love that is far below God's standards.**

**-- Back in the 60's and 70's, "peace and love" were the taglines of the day.**

**-- But, even then the definitions for these two essentials were anything but 24 carat.**

**TR: God wants us to experience peace and love.  
This peace is an all-comprehensive peace, as we  
read in . . .**

**2 Thessalonians 3:16**

9

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you **peace at all times in every way**. The Lord be with you all.

*ESV*

**. . . 2 Thessalonians . . . READ SLIDE**

- It is something that comes from God Himself.**
- This peace is able to be with us at all times.**
- This peace can impact us and our relationships . . .**  
**“in every way” AND “with you all”**

**TR: It is the Hebrew word . . .**



**. . . SHALOM that captures the fullness of this peace that God wants to give us.**

**-- Yet, all of us are tempted to settle for “OK,” like the commercial that asks if being “OK” is good enough for fixing our brakes or doing our surgery.**

**TR: For a glimpse at the cheap imitation the world is selling, as hawked by the Deceiver himself, Satan, and his minions . . .**

[PEACE] = the normal, nonwarring condition of a nation; a state of harmony between people or groups; cessation of or freedom from any strife or dissension; a state of tranquility or serenity

*from dictionary.com*



**. . . let's look at some of the key thoughts from Dictionary.com on peace . . . READ SLIDE**  
**-- There are parts of this definition I like . . . but any good imitation is going to have some truth in it, right?**

**TR: But, like the false prophets throughout the ages, this is only a knock-off.**

**Jeremiah 6:14**

12

They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, '**Peace, peace,**' **when there is no peace.**

*ESV*

**Jeremiah the prophet who ministered about 600 years before Jesus said . . . READ SLIDE**

- Is there peace in our homes just because that troublesome teenager moved out?**
- Is there really peace when we just won't touch that subject with a ten-foot pole?**
- Is it really peace when we are no longer at war**

**because we've divorced?**

**-- Is it really peace when there is no SHALOM?**

**TR: Israel's false prophets merely "whitewashed things" . . .**

**Ezekiel 13:10**

13

Precisely because they have misled my people, **saying, 'Peace,' when there is no peace,** and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with **whitewash** . . .

*ESV*

**. . . as the prophet Ezekiel tells us a few decades after Jeremiah . . . READ SLIDE**

**-- Isn't it easy to settle for a knock-off . . . it may not be the real thing, but it seems better than what we had before . . .**

**-- . . . oh, wait . . . we still have unresolved conflict that is infecting how we look at everything around us.**

**-- We move into the SILENCE mode, thinking this<sup>13</sup> is peace when it is really just rearming for an explosive VIOLENCE mode.**

**TR: In his selection of texts from the Old Testament, describing that we are ALL sinners, Paul writes in Romans 3 . . .**

**Romans 3:15-18**

**“Their feet are swift to shed blood;  
16in their paths are ruin and misery,  
17and the way of peace  
they have not known.”  
18“There is no fear of God  
before their eyes.”**

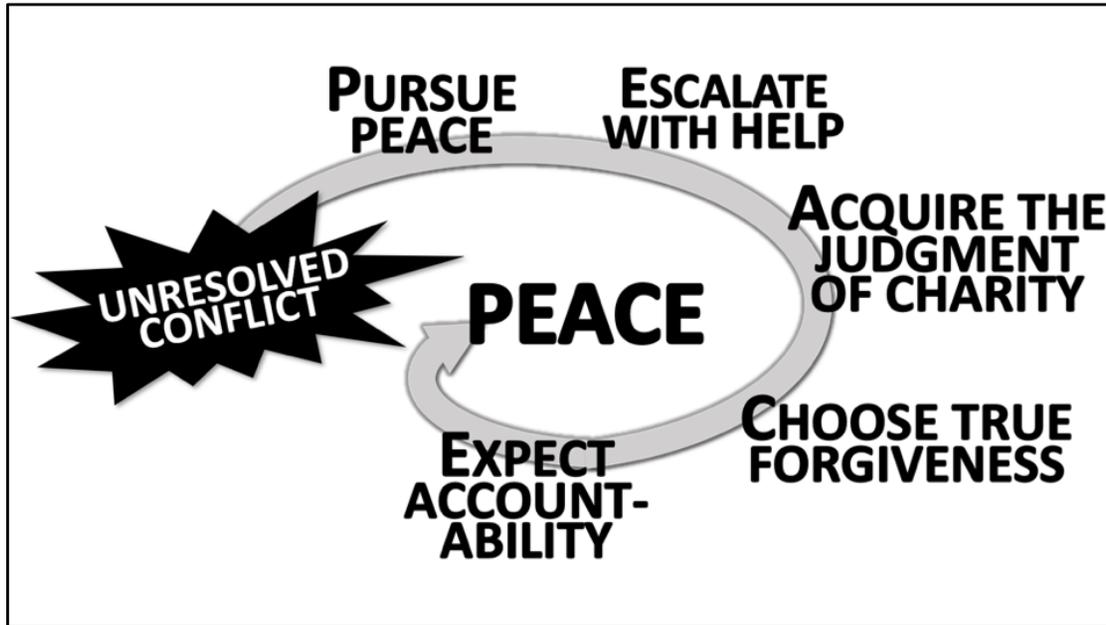
*ESV*

14

**READ SLIDE**

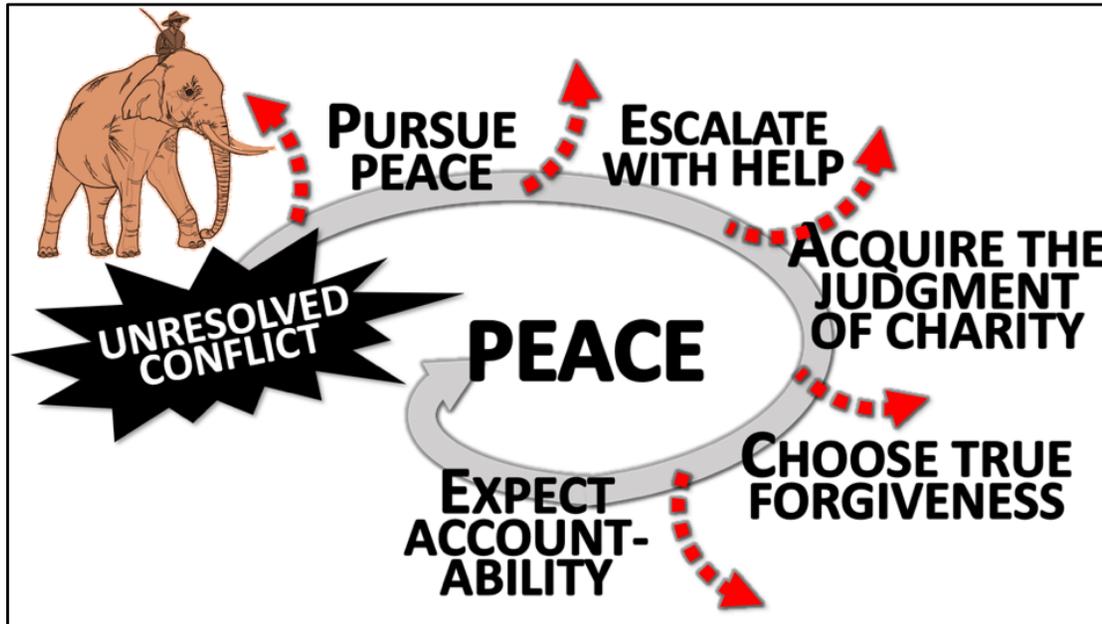
- Without the reverent fear of God before our eyes, we cannot see our way to real Shalom.**
- We will be duped into purchasing a paltry imitation that won't hold up to the hard work of the path of peace.**

**TR: Last week we dealt with the challenge of this<sup>14</sup>  
path . . .**



. . . the signposts reading P.E.A.C.E.

**TR: During the previous keynote talk, we grappled with how hard it is NOT to take a downhill detour from this path.**



Though our rational minds, the rider on the elephant's back, may say we **SHOULD** stay on the path, our huge and powerful elephant, our emotions, want to go the easy route.

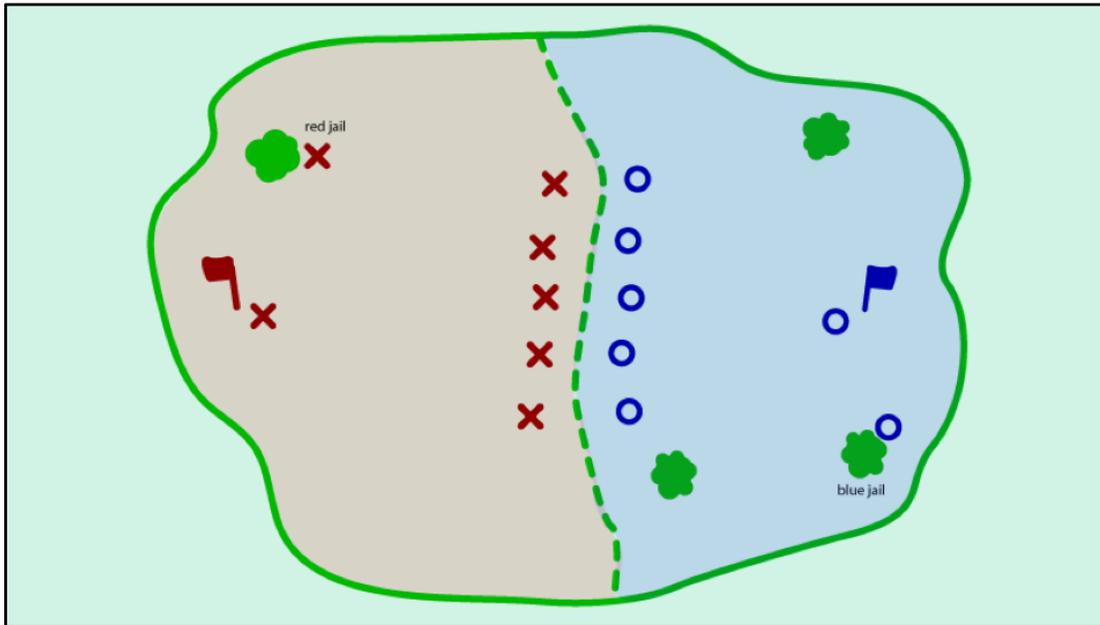
-- If we are deceived as to what true peace is, then we can easily fool ourselves into taking a detour because we believe we **DO HAVE PEACE**.

**-- That is, if we accept a knock-off as the real thing<sup>16</sup>,  
our rider will nudge the elephant to take the easy,  
downhill detour.**

**-- Instead of trying to redirect the elephant back on  
to the path to peace, the rider becomes complicit  
in going the wrong way . . .**

**-- . . . all the time fooled into thinking that they  
have the genuine article.**

**TR: It would be like playing capture the flag . . .**



**. . . we have captured the flag and made it back to our side of field . . . we let down and relax. We aren't even that worried about other players looking for our flag because we have theirs.**

**-- Our complacency lasts until we look more closely at the flag and realize that it is a decoy, a fake, a rouse.**

**-- We want to shout out "That's not fair!" but we**

**remember that the online rules for the game never<sup>17</sup>  
explicitly forbid the use of deception.**

**TR: We may think that we have peace in hand,  
when all we've got is a dish rag.**

[PEACE] = the opposite of war,  
the well-being that comes from  
God, prosperity, bodily health,  
contentedness, salvation, good  
relations, wholeness,  
completion, harmony

*The Peace Initiative Resource Manual, p. 11*



**What we needed what a clear understanding of what the authentic, genuine article looked like.**

**-- So it is with PEACE.**

**-- From our resource manual, we read that this peace is, looking at the various passages of Scripture, . . .**

**READ SLIDE**

**-- Yes, it is the cessation of warring . . . but it is much**

**stronger than that.**

**TR: The Bible talks about peace in at least three ways . . .**

[PEACE] = we can have this  
peace (1) with God, (2) with  
others, and (3) within ourselves

*The Peace Initiative Resource Manual, p. 11*



## READ SLIDE

**TR: In speaking of His desire to draw His people to Himself, God says through the prophet Isaiah . . .**

**Isaiah 27:4b-5**

**“Would that I had thorns and  
briers to battle!  
I would march against them,  
I would burn them up together.  
<sup>5</sup> Or let them lay hold  
of my protection,  
let them make peace with me,  
let them make peace with me.”**

*ESV*

20

**READ SLIDE**

**-- God is ready to do battle . . . but verse 5 makes clear that He would rather that they lay hold of His protection and make peace with Him.**

**TR: Romans 5 tells us that . . .**

**Romans 5:1**

21

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

*ESV*

**READ SLIDE**

- God wants to have peace with us.
- God has made a way for us to have peace with Him through Jesus saving work.

**TR: Jesus, Himself, is our peace . . .**

**Ephesians 2:14-15**

**For he himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>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 . . .**

*ESV*

22

**. . . as Ephesians 2 says . . . READ SLIDE**

**-- This peace is not just with God, but it is also WITH OTHERS.**

**-- The others are the TWO – Jews and Gentiles, kept forever separate by the Mosaic Law.**

**-- But we are no longer under the Law, but under the New Covenant of Jesus' blood, the fulfillment of what**

**the Law pointed to.**

**TR: Verse 16 continues . . . “that he might create in himself one new man” . . .**

**Ephesians 2:16-18**

23

... and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup>And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

-- Jesus preached peace to the Jews who were near and the Gentiles who were far.

-- Through the cross He had it possible for everyone to be at peace with God AND with each other.

**TR: Peace with God, Peace with Others, and also Peace**

**within ourselves**

23

**Philippians 4:6-7**

... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,** will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*ESV*

24

**Philippians 4 tells us . . . READ SLIDE**

- This comprehensive Shalom peace is so much better than the sham of “not warring.”**
- This peace within is what we are yearning for . . . even in the anxious moments of life to know His peace . . . a peace that goes beyond all understanding.**

**TR: This powerful peace is only available to those<sup>24</sup>  
who choose to trust and follow Jesus. Galatians 5  
paints a drastic contrast for us . . .**

**Galatians 5:17-18**

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.  
<sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

*ESV*

25

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: The desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit are in battle. The results of who wins is clear by our works and fruits . . .**

**Galatians 5:19-21**

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

ESV

26

**READ SLIDE**

-- the enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions . . . let alone the sexual and sensual other works of the flesh . . .

-- . . . tell us that without Jesus we'll never be able to get to real McCoy of biblical peace.

-- The text says that if we do such things that we are

**not real believers.**

**-- I don't think that means that we never slip into moments of infected conflict, but that a true believer will not stay there . . .**

**-- . . . they will see that they have a fake flag and be motivated to move their elephant up the trail to true peace.**

**TR: The way to do that is through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Galatians 5:22-23**

27

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

- Peace is part of the fruit of the Spirit.
- Not the cheap knock-off kind, but the full, deep, valuable, biblical brand.

**TR: This passage provides a great transition to the other scam warning we must heed during The Peace**

**Initiative, that is Love.**

27

“The words immediately following love – “joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control” – further describe the character of love . . .

*H.W. Hoehner, EDOT*



**As one scholar notices . . . READ SLIDE . . . “rather than other fruit of the Spirit, for the “fruit” and the verb are singular and the context is about love.**

**-- Peace and love are intertwined.**

**-- But if there is a greater of the two, it is love.**

**TR: The context includes verses 13 and 14 . . .**

**Galatians 5:13-14**

29

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.** <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

*ESV*

**READ SLIDE**

- A previous attempt to teach many of the concepts found in The Peace Initiative was called "The Judgment of Charity."
- I thought about naming things "The Love Initiative" but we have been so bamboozled about what love is that we'd get off track from the start.

**TR: So, our quest today to make sure we are not being snookered by the Evil One and the world in regard to the gem of peace . . . is tightly connected to the priceless jewel of . . .**

# PEACE & LOVE

**. . . love**

**-- We just contrasted the cheap peace of the world with the beautiful, strong, vibrant peace of God in Christ . . . with God, with others, and within ourselves . . . through the power of the Spirit.**

**TR: Have we been deceived and lied to regarding what**

**love is? The definitions on [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com) suggest<sup>30</sup>  
that we have . . .**

[LOVE] = a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person; a feeling of warm personal attachment; a strong predilection, enthusiasm, or liking for anything

*from dictionary.com*



## **READ SLIDE**

**-- What's missing from these definitions?**

**TR: Is this kind of love the kind Jesus would endorse as authentically reflecting the love of God?**

"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

ESV

**I don't think so. Jesus said . . . READ SLIDE**

**-- The world does this kind of love . . . it is the best they can do without God in their lives.**

**-- In one way or another it is about self-interest.**

**TR: But biblical Love, the true gemstone we are called to, is much different . . .**

[LOVE] = *hesed* love is loyal  
covenantal love

*covenant-faithful love*

H.W. Hoehner, EDOT



**In the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament, we find several words of love. But the strongest and most helpful for our quest today is the word HESED.**

**-- One scholar defines this HESED as READ SLIDE**

**-- That sounds a lot like the way I've defined it for you for many years . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: In the New Testament we come across the <sup>33</sup>  
word . . .**

[LOVE] = *agape* love is that love given irrespective of merit; a love that seeks to give to another, not possess

H.W. Hoehner, EDOT



**agape . . . pulling from an article in the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: In summary, Biblical love is . . .**

[LOVE] = **unselfish** and **sacrificial**  
with no condition of expecting  
the same in return; it is **faithful**  
to its promises



**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Look again at what we pulled from the  
Dictionary.com definitions**

[LOVE] = a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person; a feeling of warm personal attachment; a strong predilection, enthusiasm, or liking for anything

*from dictionary.com*



**I see nothing about unselfish.**

**-- Nothing about sacrificial giving.**

**-- Nothing about covenant-faithfulness.**

**TR: We may enjoy having “passionate affection” but in the end it will leave us with the empty feeling of having been swindled. What a contrast to the love**

**God wants us to treasure.**

36

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ESV

**Love, whose measure is the love of God shown to us in that Christ died for us WHILE we were still sinners.**

**-- Jesus died for all . . . God loves the world even if some in the world will not receive His love and love Him back.**

**-- This love is not a weak love that tramples on justice and accountability . . . only those who receive Christ**

**are loved with the HESED love of the covenant.<sup>37</sup>**

**TR: For those of us who are Christians, we are called to love God but also each other.**

**1 John 4:7-9**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

*ESV*

38

**The beloved disciple, closest to Jesus during His earthly ministry, wrote . . . READ SLIDE**

**-- God is love.**

**-- Theologians talk about the simplicity of God . . . meaning that His attributes are completely integrated, unable to be compartmentalized.**

**-- Everything God does and is comes out of His love . . .**

**from creation to the final judgment.**

**-- But the most obvious and clear way God manifest His love was that He sent His Only Son into the world.**

**-- God's love is unselfish, sacrificial, and full of covenant-faithfulness.**

**-- So, our love should be the same.**

**TR: How often we hear, "I still love them, but . . ."**  
**I know there are lots of questions about details,**  
**but for today, think with me through one of the**

**clearest definitions of love in the Bible . . .**

**38**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

*ESV*

39

**Read at many weddings, the love chapter starts of by telling us that without love we are nothing.**

**-- But, the Apostle is NOT JUST speaking of passionate affection, personal attachment, or a strong predilection . . .**

**TR: This text has so impacted me that I worked hard**

**trying to understand the terms, coming up with my<sup>39</sup>  
own translation . . .**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5**

Love . . . waits patiently,  
shows kindness;  
does not . . . boil with envy,  
brag,  
puff up its own importance,  
behave shamefully,  
seek its own interests,  
get easily-angered,  
add up a record of wrongs.

*deBock*

40

**It is one of the texts we will work to memorize during our 70 days of Initiative.**

- Are we patient when the other person is slower . . . physically, mentally, or emotionally?**
- Are we actively showing kindness, being generous in our giving to their needs, serving them?**

**-- Do we boil with envy, NOT rejoicing in their <sup>40</sup> successes and joys, but like a pot of water close to boiling, do we rumble inside?**

**-- Do we tend to make much of what we've done? Do we puff up our own importance, always interrupting their story to one-up them with ours?**

**TR: (NEXT SLIDE = SAME)**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5**

Love . . . waits patiently,  
shows kindness;  
does not . . . boil with envy,  
brag,  
puff up its own importance,  
behave shamefully,  
seek its own interests,  
get easily-angered,  
add up a record of wrongs.

*deBock*

41

**(SAME SLIDE AS PREVIOUS)**

- Are we rude, behaving shamefully? That is, do we treat them like they aren't worthy of anything better, almost like lowly servants there for our pleasure?**
- Do we also seek to get our way? Is it our way or the highway?**
- Are we easily set-off when we don't get what we**

**want.**

**-- Do we keep a list of all the hurts and resentments that they have caused us? Are we tallying up the strikes, getting ready to call them out?**

**TR: This practical, working definition of biblical love continues . . .**

**1 Corinthians 13:6-7**

42

Does not take pleasure in wrongdoing,  
but joyfully celebrates the truth.  
(Love) always bears up,  
always believes,  
always hopes,  
always endures.

*deBock*

**Love . . . READ SLIDE**

- Do I like getting back at them, even gloating when they face difficulties from others?**
- Or do I celebrate when the truth wins, even if it isn't what I thought was true before?**
- Covenant-faithful love has a sense of ALWAYS to it . . .**
- .**

**TR: I am convinced that love, biblical love is much more than a profoundly tender and passionate affection . . . it is a choice.**

# Choices of Love

43

I choose *to bear up* with  
these habits of yours that tend to irritate me . . .

I chose *to believe* that  
you act out of that which makes sense to you  
when you . . .

**Covenant-faithful love CHOOSES to . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: Always bears up, always believes . . .**

## Choices of Love

I choose *to hope* that  
God can change you and will do so,  
I choose *to endure* until  
Jesus comes and changes you (and me)!

**and always hopes and always endures . . .**

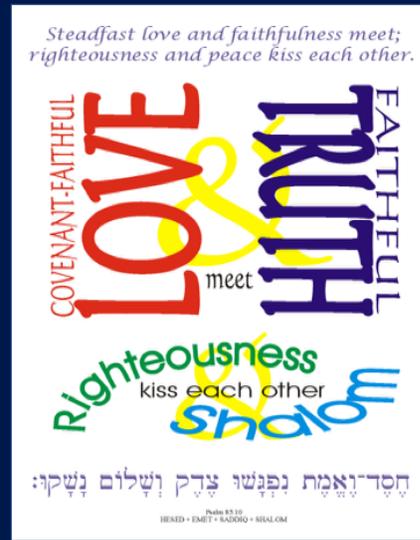
**-- HESED – AGAPE love chooses to . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: In our resource manuals . . .**



**Psalm 85:10**

**Steadfast love  
and faithfulness  
meet;  
  
righteousness  
and peace  
kiss each other.**



46

**. . . and to make us wholly dissatisfied with anything less.**

**-- Psalm 85:10 was the verse that I shared with our daughter and son-in-law at their wedding almost 10 years ago . . .**

**-- using a little Delft blue figure of a Dutch boy and girl kissing . . . I shared this verse . . . READ SLIDE**

- **HESED + EMET = Covenant-faithful love and faithful-truth meet.** 46
- **Righteousness and shalom kiss each other.**
- **Real peace and real love don't compromise on either side, even as the attributes of God cannot be compartmentalized.**

**TR: As our memory verse for this coming week says**  
...

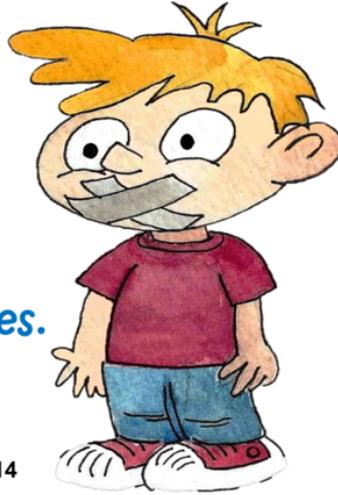
<sup>11</sup>Come, my children, listen to me;  
I will teach you  
the fear of the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>Whoever of you loves life  
and desires to see  
many good days,

<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking lies.

<sup>14</sup>Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.

Psalm 34:11-14



## READ SLIDE

-- We are called to keep our tongues from evil and from lies . . . but understand that the Devil, demons, false teachers, and the world itself have no fear of the LORD, so they don't operate by the same rules.

TR: So we must heed to old Latin phrase . . .

# **CAVEAT EMPTOR**

## **READ SLIDE**

- Let the buyer beware.**
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you check your definitions of PEACE and LOVE.**
- Are we settling for a knock-off?**
- Are we complacent because we think we've won, when in reality we've been deceived?**