



Fruit of the Spirit



Lesson 3: PEACE

INTRODUCTION

There has not been a generation in the life of our nation that has not been touched by conflict. But every generation yearns for lasting peace. No gift of prophecy is required to predict that as long as the world endures peace-shattering conflict will fill our news headlines.

Jesus came to provide humans with peace. But his peace extends beyond an absence of war and its horrors. “Peace I leave with you,” Jesus promised his apostles on Maundy Thursday. “My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27).

This lesson provides us with a look at what makes Jesus’ peace superior to the peace many in the world want to give and what impact Jesus’ peace has on our lives.

STUDYING GOD’S WORD: The Source of Peace

1.) Examine Romans 5:1-2 and break the passage down phrase by phrase.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

- "we have been justified through faith"
- "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"
- "through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand"

ENDURING PEACE

1.) The Christmas angels shouted that with the birth of the Christ Child there now is peace on earth. Describe the peace Jesus was born to provide for our planet. For a “Peace on Earth” Christmas card to portray this definition of *peace*, what would it look like?

- 2.) Evaluate: Because of Jesus I perpetually have peace, even when my life is in upheaval.
- 3.) Explain how a peace that is based on our forgiveness in Jesus is the ideal starting point for peace between people and between nations.

THE POWER OF PEACE

- 1.) In Ephesians 2:11-22, Paul helps the Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians in Ephesus understand how they were all part of the body of Christ. What does God's peace in Christ accomplish for Gentiles and (believing) Jews?

Ephesians 2:11-22 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men)—¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

- 2.) Evaluate: Since the Bible says that life on earth will be filled with troubles (John 16:33, Acts 14:22), Christians should not expect to experience any lasting peace.
- 3.) Explain how this statement is both true and false: Conflict between Christians is best remedied by those Christians learning better to appreciate God's grace in Jesus.

SUMMARY

PRAYER