

The Fruit of PEACE!

Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4-9

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Lack of peace in our world today
- People are looking for personal peace.

The Fruit of PEACE!

A. The Foundation for Peace

1. Definition: “tranquility of mind, and inner repose, quietness”, “having it all together”
2. Paired with “Joy” in the Scriptures—Romans 15:13
3. Grounded in the very nature of God, who is a God of peace. Romans 15:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
4. Jesus Christ bequeathed to us His peace. John 14:26

B. The Fruit of Peace: How can we experience the peace of God in our lives?

1. Begins with being at “peace with God”—reconciliation
 - a. Before salvation, we were God’s enemies. Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:10
 - b. God takes the initiative in restoring the relationship with man. Romans 5:6-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
 - c. Reconciliation possible by Christ’s sacrificial death for our sins—2 Corinthians 5:21
 - d. When we accept God’s free offer of salvation by God’s grace through faith, we are declared to be right in God’s sight. We are reconciled to God and thus we have “peace with God.”
2. Experiencing the “peace of God” is our choice. John 14:27
3. **Four “Keys” to experiencing internal, Spirit-produced peace.**—Philippians 4:4-9
 - a. **Peace through God’s presence.** Philippians 4:5
 - 1) “The Lord is at hand”—either chronological or spatial
 - 2) Illustrated in the life of Joshua and Paul—Joshua 1:5, 9; 2 Timothy 4:16-17
 - 3) The almighty, true, living God is present with us. Therefore no need to fear or fret.
 - b. **Peace through Believing Prayer**—Philippians 4:6-7
 - 1) Care for others is a virtue. Philippians 2:4; Galatians 6:2
 - 2) When concern turns into worry and anxiousness, it is sin.
 - 3) Antidote for worry? Believing prayer Psalm 145:18
 - 4) The “sandwich” of Prayer—4:6
 - a) Bottom layer: “Prayer”—emphasis on worshiping God for Who He is.
 - b) Middle layer: “Supplication”—emphasis on our “needs, petitions”
 - c) Top layer: “Thanksgiving”—gratitude for what God has done
 - 5) When we unload our cares on the Lord, we can leave with his unexplainable peace! 4:7
 - c. **Peace through Proper Thinking**—Philippians 4:8
 - 1) We are what we think.—Proverbs 23:7; Mark 7:20-23
 - 2) If we are to experience the peace of God, we must control what we meditate on.
 - 3) Paul’s illustrative list of things that should occupy our minds
 - a) General Criteria—the “if” statements
 - (1) “virtue”—moral excellence, pure
 - (2) “praiseworthy”—commendable, positive
 - b) Specific Qualities—“True, noble, just, pure, lovely, good report”
 - d. **Peace through Practicing God’s Word**—Philippians 4:9
 - 1) Truth is both “taught” and “caught”
 - 2) Biblical truth is to be applied to life and put into practice.