

Peace

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Sunday School – Sept. 26, 2021

A. SCRIPTURE

1. Galatians 5:22, 23 – “ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
 - a. Peace: Noun – “eirene” pronounced – i-rah’-nay, translated peace, rest, quietness, & one accord. Basically, it portrays the idea of completeness, soundness, & wholeness.
 - b. Peace is in every book of the New Testament except James, and is used in 85 verses. It is a greeting in the Old Testament, and as a greeting is found at the beginning or end of all the epistles of the New Testament except James and I John.

NOTE: Peace (“Eirene”) is used in the New Testament to describe:

- ❖ Harmonious relationships between believers – Rom 14:17-19
 - ❖ Harmonious relationships between nations – Acts 12:20
 - ❖ Friendliness – Acts 15:30-33
 - ❖ Freedom from interference – Acts 9:26-31
 - ❖ Order in the nation or churches – Acts 24:1-3; I Cor. 14:33
 - ❖ Harmonized relationships between God and man, due to the Gospel (through Christ) – Acts 10:34-36
 - ❖ Rest and contentment due to the Gospel (through Christ) – Rom. 8:4-8
- c. Shalom (Noun) is the Old Testament equivalent word meaning: end of war; friendship with companions and with God; contentment, safety, welfare, & happiness; health, prosperity & security from enemies; freedom from strife (internal & external); calmness & rest for those trusting God.

B. DEFINITION

1. Secular: 17 different definitions
 - a. Peace: A state of mutual harmony between people or groups, especially in personal relationships. A state of tranquility or serenity. Freedom from strife and dissention. Public order and security.
2. Spiritual: Peace - A fruit of the Spirit given to believers by God’s divine power to enable us to have assurance of salvation, to have security in our relationship with God without fear, and to have complete rest & contentment with His direction & provision, despite turmoil, trials, and adversity, for the purpose of our faithful harmony with God’s will and plan for our lives for His glory.

C. Principles:

1. Peace in the New Testament is the peace which is a gift of the Spirit made possible by the work of Christ. Gal. 5:22-23; John 14:26-27
2. Peace is used many times to describe the truths associated with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. John 14:26-27; John 16:33; Rom. 5:1-2; Phil 4:6-9
3. Christ's purpose in coming into the world was to bring spiritual peace with God. Luke 1:76-79; Luke 2:13-14; Luke 24:35-36; Mark 5:30-34
4. Peace is a vital part of the gospel as it reflects our peace through our reconciliation (Rom. 5:1) with God and the peace of fellowship (Phil. 4:6-9) with God.
5. Peace is a direct result of our justification, of having been made right with God. Since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God. Rom 5:1-2
6. Many blessings and benefits for the believer are associated with peace:
 - a. The gospel is the gospel of peace. Eph. 6:15
 - b. Christ is our peace. Eph. 2:14-15
 - c. God the Father is the God of peace. I Thes. 5:23
 - d. Each believer can now experience the peace of God and fellowship in close relationship to God due to Christ's provision through his death, burial, and resurrection and our reconciliation and justification. Phil. 4:6-9; John 14:26-27; John 16:33
 - e. Peace is not dependent on our circumstances but on the Spirit and our walk with Him.
 - f. Peace is from God and made possible through the work of Christ. Peace is provided and enabled by the Holy Spirit as a gift, and peace is to be cultivated by each believer in obedience and love as he walks and is controlled by the Holy Spirit. Phil. 4:7-9
7. Peace is ours now. It is a current possession not a future benefit that we cannot have now. Rom 8:4-8; Col. 3:15
8. Grace and peace are often used together to greet believers in the epistles, making reference to the grace of God and His favor for them and the Peace of God which results from God's saving grace Rom. 1:7; I Cor. 1:3; etc.
9. We are to reflect our peace ("pursue and follow peace") and holiness with those outside the church as witness to allow them to see Christ in us. Heb. 12:14-15

Summary: It is God's will that we be followers and imitators of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are to wear the character, attitudes, qualities, and virtues of Christ. We are to bear the fruit of the Spirit. As we serve and worship Him in obedience to God's Word, the Holy Spirit enables us to be peaceable and to grow by His grace. We are to pursue peace and holiness as we walk in the Spirit in Biblical love and unity. We are to be peace loving servants of our faithful God resting in His promises to meet all our needs as we obey, serve, and show our love for Him in the ministry He has given us for the purpose of glorifying God.