

## Pursuing Peace

*"...(aim at and pursue) faith, love (and) peace (harmony and accord) with others in fellowship with all (Christians) who call upon the Lord out of a pure heart." - 2 Timothy 2:22*

### INTRODUCTION

- The word "peace" in the Bible refers to a mental attitude of tranquility based on a relationship with God.
  - Describes a person's correct response to God's grace.
  - The Bible uses peace in two ways:
    - a. personal peace = comes when a person accepts Jesus Christ as Savior
    - b. peace of God = available on a daily basis as we participate in the Christian way of life according to God's plan
- I. A gift we **RECEIVE**. (*Romans 5:1-2 & John 14:27*)
- Peace with God comes through Jesus
  - Confidence & joy because of this salvation peace
  - Jesus leave peace through His Holy Spirit & because of His defeat of death
  - Peace that only comes through the grace that saved us
- II. A fruit **PRODUCED** through us. (*Galatians 5:22*)
- When controlled by the Holy Spirit instead of our sinful nature.
  - Follow the Holy Spirit's leading.
  - Not hinder Holy Spirit activity in our lives
- III. A result of right **FOCUS**. (*Isaiah 26:3*)
- Perfect peace = peace without flaw
  - Trusting in God
  - Focusing on God
  - Holy Spirit led
  - Time with Him in His Word
  - A deliberate choice
- IV. A character quality that **IDENTIFIES** us. (*Matthew 5:9*)
- Blessed when we live it out as a life goal.
  - So many & various ways to live out peace.
  - Identifies a person as belonging to God.

Biblical examples of peacemakers (they took action toward peace):

- Abraham (Genesis 13:8-9) - gave up material goods & was blessed for it
- Abigail (1 Samuel 25:23-25) - saved lives through her intervention
- Mordecai (Esther 4:13) - did what he could; let Esther make her own choice.

**How do we get to the point of being identified as peacemakers? How does the inner state of peace become an out reality for which we are known and to which others are drawn?**

V. A condition we **PURSUE**. (*Psalm 34:14*)

- Definition of pursue:
  - To follow in order to overtake, capture, kill, etc.
  - To chase
  - To strive to gain
  - Seek to attain or accomplish
- Give examples of things often pursued
- Psalm 34:14 says to:
  1. Get rid of evil. - Out with bad & replace with good.
  2. Seek it.
  3. Inquire for it.
  4. Crave it.
  5. Go after it.

**In other words TAKE ACTION**

**Peace is not just a state of mind or a demeanor**

**Our example - living out peace - will draw others to Him**

## How can we pursue peace? What actions can we take in our everyday lives?

- *Romans 12:17-18*
  - Do your part. “As far as it depends on you...”
  - Don’t get even. Can’t control others. Difficult enough to control self.
  - Driving is my most common example of struggling to be a peaceful example
  - God’s truth divides, but we must do our part to live His truth in peace.
- *Matthew 5:23-26*
  - Keep short accounts. Clear up offenses ASAP. Get at the small things before they pile up and create something huge. Think of hoarders.
- *1 Peter 3:11 (READ IN MESSAGE)*
  - Hard work to live at peace because not everyone is trying to
- *John 14:27*
  - God’s peace, not the world’s peace.
  - The world’s peace relies on people, money & things
  - God’s peace relies on Jesus
  - Is the world’s peace even possible?
- *Mark 9:50*
  - Be salty = pursuing peace
  - Salt preserves
  - We preserve the Gospel and what Jesus came to do as we pursue peace
- *Proverbs 12:20*
  - Counselors (AMP) of peace. What do counselors do?
  - Career counselor. Camp counselor.
  - Plan. Organize. Keep order.
- *Ecclesiastes 10:4*
  - A peaceful spirit, even when you’re at fault, prevents more offense
  - What do we usually do when we’re at fault?
  - I get defensive or retreat inside myself - I hide.
- *James 3:17*
  - Seek wisdom from God
  - Live by His Word
  - We can’t think like junior high boys!

## CONCLUSION:

- What stops us from pursuing peace? Why don’t we have enough peace? Do you?
- What blocks your peace? For me, it’s pride, trying to control & getting overloaded.
- Too often, we’re simply too busy to pursue peace.