

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

LESSON 03 - PEACE

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction:

1. The great battle of our lives here upon Earth is between the flesh and the Spirit.
2. Ultimately, this is a conflict over who will reign and rule in our lives – man (the flesh) or God (the Spirit).
3. When we choose to walk after the Spirit, we will bear His fruit in our lives.
4. “The fruit of the Spirit is love.”

1. The Meaning of Peace

A. Definitions

1. The Hebrew word for peace is *shalom* and the Greek word is *eirene*.
2. The Hebrew indicates “a condition of freedom from disturbance, whether outwardly ...or inwardly, within the soul.”
3. The Greek means, “a state of tranquility, harmony; resulting in security.”
4. One dictionary defines peace as “cessation of or freedom from any strife or dissension. Freedom of the mind from annoyance, distraction, anxiety, and obsession; tranquility; serenity. To become reconciled.”

B. Peace and God

1. God is a God of peace (Romans 15:33; 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20).
2. Jesus is the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6; Ephesians 2:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; Hebrews 7:2).
3. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of peace (Galatians 5:22).

C. Peace and the Gospel

1. The Gospel is a message of peace (Romans 10:15; Ephesians 6:15).
2. It makes peace between God and man (Acts 10:36, 43; Romans 2:10-11; 5:1; 8:6).
3. It makes peace between men (1 Corinthians 14:33; Romans 12:18; 14:19; Ephesians 2:14-18; 4:3).

D. Peace and the Church

1. The church is a kingdom of peace (Romans 14:17; Colossians 3:15; Isaiah 9:6-7).
2. It is made up of people of peace (Matthew 5:9; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 12:14; James 3:18; 1 Peter 3:10-11).
3. It gives man access to peace (Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13).

E. Peace and War

1. There is a type of peace that is not pleasing to the Lord and a type of war that is demanded of Christians.
2. Peace cannot exist with error (Matthew 10:34-38; Psalm 120:7).
3. Peace cannot exist with sin (Jeremiah 6:14-17).
4. Peace cannot exist without God (Psalm 83:5; Acts 5:1-2, 9).
 - a. “Ananias and Sapphira were united in marriage, in religion, in sin, in death, in the grave, and in eternity...”
 - b. “[Y]et here is a perfect demonstration of the fact that two members of the church can be fully agreed in everything and be so wrong that they will spend eternity in the terrible place called Hell!”

Lesson 03

II. The Connection to Love

- A. While “peace” refers to a cessation of hostilities between warring parties, it also has a deeper meaning.
- B. True peace exists when reconciliation is made and love prevails.
 - 1. “With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations” (Abraham Lincoln, 2nd Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865).
 - 2. Peace with God involves reconciliation (Romans 5:6-10).
 - 3. Peace with man demands reconciliation (Ephesians 2:14-17).
- C. True peace is an outgrowth of true love (and cannot exist without it).
- D. Peace is love’s confidence!