

## The Fruit of Peace

~Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God~ Matt 5:9

We need to keep in mind that we are studying about "fruit" that is produced in the life of a Christian when he or she opens their heart to be directed by God. The Spirit of God produces this fruit only if the Christian is willing to listen to His teachings and put them into practice in his or her life. This fruit is not forced upon anyone or given directly by the Spirit without the Christian doing his or her part.<sup>1</sup> As we said before, fruit is cultivated!

"Peace" is said to be a fruit that comes into a Christian's life as they continue in an obedient faith. Peace is the opposite of discord, strife or dissension. Peace comes when there is unity and harmony. A soul in rebellion against God cannot have peace with God! Peace can only come when there is harmony between God and man.

- Write down three things about this peace in: Phil 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
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If we want this peace, we need to set our mind on proper things like.... (Phil 4:8-9):

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As long as we remain in Christ, we have the promise of this peace. The world around us is filled with deceptive teachings, temptations, errors, fears, etc., that are desiring entrance into our hearts and thoughts. With Christ in our hearts, these things cannot gain an entrance. If we fill our minds with the proper things to think upon and do, they cannot gain a foothold into our mind or heart.

### Kinds of Peace

Not all peace is the peace that the Spirit of God produces in our lives. Jesus, who is called the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6), made it very clear that He did not come to bring a false peace. He knew that His teachings would not bring peace to some homes, but a sword (Matt. 10:34). He was not offering peace through the compromise of truth. Jesus was not like those who cry "peace, peace," when there is no real peace (Jer. 6:14); but He does offer true peace with God and with our fellow man.

Christians are encouraged to live peaceably with all men (Rom. 12:18); but he adds: if it is possible and as much as such depends on you. But there are some people that make such hard (Ps. 120:7). In another sense, Jesus' coming brought peace to both Jew and Gentile (but only to those in Christ Jesus) (Eph. 2:13-14). This peace is in the sense of reconciliation.

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<sup>1</sup> The majority of this study comes from Paul Cantrell,  
[http://camphillchurch.org/study\\_books/FRUIT%20OF%20THE%20SPIRIT,%20Bearing%20the.pdf](http://camphillchurch.org/study_books/FRUIT%20OF%20THE%20SPIRIT,%20Bearing%20the.pdf)

The Gospel is called a message of peace (Eph. 6:15; Acts 10:36). The Psalmist stated that there is peace given to those who love God's Law (Ps. 119:165). Man is no longer at enmity with God, because he has made his peace with Him in his turning from his disobedience to be an obedient servant of God.

Peace with our fellow man

When a person has made his peace with God through his obedience to the Gospel, he is then expected to live at peace with all man.

- Heb 12:14
- Rom 12:18
- 1Thes 5:13
- Eph 4:3

In a special way, the Christian is to become a peacemaker among men.

- Matt 5:9
- Rom 14:19
- 1Pet 3:10

One of the obvious things that certainly will help us in our efforts to live peaceably with both God and man is Godly Love!

- Matt 22:37-39
- Rom 13:10

This love is concerned for the welfare of another. He is even willing to put his own interest in a secondary place in order to keep peace. Both Abraham and Isaac had this kind of an attitude.

- Gen 13:8
- Gen 26:22

The Apostle admonished the church at Corinth to be willing to suffer wrong in order to keep peace among themselves.

- 1Cor 6:7

Peace And Righteous Living

The way that we maintain our peaceful relationship with God is to continue to walk in the light of God's truth (1 Jn. 1:7). The person who does right is righteous before God (1 Jn. 3:7). This does not mean that he is perfect or without sin in his life at times. But it does give an emphasis to the direction that a man is walking. If we are to maintain peace with God by living righteous; then, it would seem that by the same walk we can be at peace with all men—who will allow such. The admonition given by the Apostle Paul would certainly help make for peace when he admonishes us to pray for men (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Living in peace requires that we deal properly with time also. Paul's inspired statement about forgetting the things that are past (Phil. 3:13) is a necessity. Sins, mistakes, wrongs in the past must be properly put behind. We do what we can to make right those mistakes and go on with our life. God remembers them against us no more (Heb. 8:12). Blessed is the man whose past sins have been covered (Rom. 4:7-8). Also, it is important that we not worry about the future (Matt. 6:31-32). The only time that we really have is in the present!). "When your memories are greater than your dreams you are already dying. The goal is to honor the past, live in the present and look to the future".<sup>2</sup> So, make each day count so that we can look back on it with pleasure.

[http://camphillchurch.org/study\\_books/FRUIT%20OF%20THE%20SPIRIT.%20Bearing%20the.pdf](http://camphillchurch.org/study_books/FRUIT%20OF%20THE%20SPIRIT.%20Bearing%20the.pdf)

### My Notes and Thoughts

THOUGHT: Phil 4:7... the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall **keep** your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. The Greek word for keep is *phroureo*, which is a military term that means to keep with a military guard or garrison<sup>3</sup>.

In your opinion, what is the difference between "peace-maker" and a "peace-keeper; what is God asking (Matt 5:9) \_\_\_\_\_

What is involved in developing peace?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is a new nugget that you gained from looking at peace? \_\_\_\_\_

What are somethings that are keeping you from experiencing the peace described in the Bible?  
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Have you ever compromised true peace in order to gain temporal peace? What did you learn from your experience?  
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From our previous 2 studies, how do you see love and joy work together with peace?  
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What's the promise from God for being a peacemaker and what does that mean to you?  
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<sup>2</sup> Kris Vallatton, podcast

<sup>3</sup> Strong, 76