

“Peace and Love”  
Ephesians 6:21-24  
(Preached at Trinity, May 8, 2016)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. After ending his discourse on the Christian life and the spiritual warfare that characterizes our life, with **Verse 21** Paul begins to bring his letter to a close. He begins by giving commendation regarding Tychicus. Paul also addresses him at the end of the Book of Colossians where he uses almost identical words. Tychicus was the bearer of that letter as well.
  - A. Paul describes him as a “beloved brother and faithful minister.” What a wonderful commendation. What more could we ask of our fellow Christians? And what higher aspiration for us. He was a dear brother, loved and respected by all. And he was a faithful minister in the Lord. The word for “minister” is δῆακονος – servant. It is also the word translated “deacon.”
  - B. Faithfulness is a mark of genuine Christianity. Christ calls us to undivided devotion to Him. Paul opened this letter using this word to describe the Ephesian Christians.  
**Ephesians 1:1 NAU** - "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus"
  - C. It is the high mark of those who will be leaders in the church. Even the wives of pastors and deacons must have this mark of faithfulness.  
**1 Timothy 3:11 ESV** - "Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things."
2. Paul sends this faithful brother to Ephesus to bring word of his condition and to comfort the church. Paul briefly described this mission in 2 Timothy.  
**2 Timothy 4:11-13** - "Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. <sup>12</sup> But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus."
3. Then Paul sends his final salutation, not mere words of formality but words that describe the essence of the Christian experience. He describes the grace that comes from the bosom of the Father—“Peace and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
4. This morning I want to hold these two graces before you—peace and love. My primary focus this morning will be upon the effect these graces have upon our relationship with one another. Next week I’ll close out the letter by looking more particularly upon our love for Jesus.
5. Paul is closing his letter with a wonderful benediction of grace. He speaks of peace and love with faith. Is he saying “with faith” in the sense of adding faith to the list – “peace and love along with faith.” Or is he saying “peace and love accomplished with faith?” The answer is both. Peace and love accompanied by faith and empowered by faith are wonderful Christian graces. The Ephesian Christians know peace and love. Paul is calling upon God to bless them with even greater measures of this grace.

- I. Peace be to the brethren . . . from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- A. This peace has to begin with our peace with God.  
Peace between brethren is peace “from” God that begins with peace “with” God.
1. Peace with God is the harmony that comes from our reconciliation with God. It is an inner satisfaction and contentment that all is well with our soul.
  2. Only the Christian can know this peace. Notice Paul says, “Peace be to the brethren.”  
In **Verse 24** he commends grace to those who love the lord Jesus Christ. It is the grace of justification that comes through the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Romans 5:1 NAU** - "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"  
**Romans 15:13 NAU** - "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
  3. Human beings were created in harmony and fellowship with God
    - a. Adam had a true and proper reverence for God – he worshipped God in love and obedience. He enjoyed true peace.
    - b. Adam had an inner confidence that God was working for his good – he was in a true and proper communion with God
    - c. God was the source of all his comfort and confidence  
Adam knew the ultimate peace – the peace that comes from knowing God is on your side; that He is working on your behalf.
  4. Sin obliterated this peace
    - a. The lost man is born into the worst of all conflicts – he is at war with God and man.
    - b. Instead of being at peace with God we are at a constant state of war  
**Romans 8:7 NAU** - "the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God"
  5. When God saves us we are reconciled to Him
    - a. We are brought back into a right relationship with Him. God no longer looks upon us as an enemy. We are no longer under His wrath. We no longer fear His fury.
    - b. We are granted to come into His presence – to enter into His dwelling place
- B. The redeemed man has found this true peace
1. The Christian has found rest for his soul. His conscience is at peace
  2. This comes by grace—“Peace and love with faith from God”
    - a. We know it is well with our soul.
    - b. This is the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.  
“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace . . .”
  3. Jesus suffered God’s punishment for sin. We have an absolute confidence in the efficiency of the blood of Christ.  
"My sin – Oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't  
My sin not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Oh my soul."

4. For the people of this world peace is the absence of conflict. For the Christian it is a life brought to balance and harmony. It affects everything. One of the wonderful effects is the effect it has upon our relationship with one another.
- C. Only the one who has found reconciliation with God can be at peace with his fellow man. He has the comfort found in loving his neighbor.
- "Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father"
1. The peace we have is a grace in the process of sanctification. We are growing in peace
  2. The lost man is on a never-ending treadmill trying to get ahead of everyone else
    - a. He wants the place of preeminence recognition
    - b. He is always concerned about what others think of him. There is no peace when our greatest labor is seeking to maintain our image.
    - c. He doesn't really care for others. He only uses them to satisfy his own pride.
  3. The believer has found true peace in love – he sees God as enthroned.
    - a. He is content in God's favor – if God honors Him it is enough
    - b. He has found the peace in putting others before himself
    - c. There is true liberty here – true peace
  4. While this peace marks us and testifies to our new life it does not find its perfection in this life. It demands much grace. Notice it is from God. It is a work of His Spirit in us—"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace . . ."
  - a. The Christian life is one of strivings and groanings. It demands continual mortification of the flesh.
  - b. It demands a continual work of the Holy Spirit in us. Don't forget Paul's words in **Chapter 5**  
**Ephesians 5:18-21 NAU** - "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; <sup>21</sup> and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."
    - c. Only the work of the Holy Spirit in us can bring about this peace.
  5. This peace enables us to live in harmony with others.  
**Romans 12:18 NAU** - "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."  
**Hebrews 12:14 NAU** - "Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord."
    6. We live in a whole new realm. The Kingdom of Christ is a Kingdom of peace. Jesus Christ is the Prince of peace.  
 He tells us: **John 14:27 NAU** - "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you."

II. Paul also speaks of “love with faith” that comes from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. As with peace, Paul has as his focus our love for one another. But again, we cannot love one another until we have discovered the love of Christ.

It is love “with” faith that comes “from” faith.

1. Paul made the connection between faith and love in **Chapter 1 Ephesians 1:15 NAU** - "For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints"
2. Faith and love cannot be separated. Love flows forth from faith.  
**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 NAU** - "We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of *you* in our prayers; <sup>3</sup> constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,"
3. Paul taught this great triad of faith, hope, and love.  
**1 Corinthians 13:13 NAU** - "But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love."
4. The peace and love Paul is speaking of here is connected to faith. It flows forth from faith. This faith flows from the Father in election but finds its foundation in Christ.
  - a. Saving faith puts Christ at the center of our hope of salvation
  - b. You must believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to save His people from their sins—that He lived a perfect life fulfilling the Law’s demands, and that He died on the cross as our substitute.
  - c. You must confess your own wicked rebellion against God and you must trust Christ’s death upon the cross as the full payment for your sin.
  - d. You must confess that there is nothing you can do to merit God’s favor.
  - e. You must confess your desire for Christ’s rule over every area of your life
  - f. Notice Paul’s words “from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"

B. It is by faith that we have come to know this peace and love. Saving faith produces not only a love for Christ. It also produces love for others who love Him. It is testimony to our union with Christ and with one another.

**Ephesians 6:23 NAU** - "Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith"

1. But it is not strictly an individualistic experience. It is an experience we share with other believers.

**Ephesians 6:24 NAU** - "Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love."

Curtis Vaughan – “God has so ordained things that those who love the company of God’s people are in the best position to grasp the riches of God’s love. This is one thing that makes public worship so important. The experiences of our fellow believers are intended to be (and usually will be) of help to us in our own fuller realization of Christ and His love.”

2. Our love for one another is one of the chief distinguishing marks of Christianity.

3. We are not justified by love, but love is the fruit of true saving faith. Paul implies in **Verse 24** that love is a sign of grace. If a man loves the saints it must be because he has a new nature that enables him to love Jesus.
4. This is the consistent teaching of the New Testament
  - Jesus said:  
**John 13:35 NAU** - "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
  - John wrote:  
**1 John 2:9-10 NAU** - "The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him."  
**1 John 3:14 NAU** - "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death."
  - This was Paul's continual teaching  
**Romans 13:10 NAU** - "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law."  
**Galatians 5:14 NAU** - "For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."  
**Galatians 5:22 NAU** - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love"  
**Romans 12:10 NAU** - "*Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;  
**1 Thessalonians 4:9 NAU** – "Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;"
3. In other words, love is what we are. It marks us, defines us. We love one another. We like being with one another. We enjoy the same things. We love the same Lord. We are adopted into the same family.

#### Conclusion:

1. Have you found this peace and love?  
**Ephesians 6:23 NAU** - "Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith"
2. Where can you find it?  
Paul answers this question plainly.  
**Ephesians 6:23 NAU** - "Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
3. It comes forth from God the Father.  
It comes about through faith in Jesus Christ.  
It comes from the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.  
It is a work of the triune God who's redemptive purpose is to reconcile us to Himself.
4. And it manifests itself in our oneness as we walk together in peace and love.