

Fruit on the Vine: Peace II Galatians 5:16-24

INTRODUCTION

Last Sunday, we began to consider the fruit of peace. So, what is the peace to which Paul refers in verse 22? Remember the best guide is context, but the immediate context of Galatians doesn't tell us much about the meaning of the word. **Ok, so where do we look next for context?** We would look next to other writings of Paul, the author of the letter to the Galatians. When we do, we find three general ways he speaks of peace.

A. Peace _____ God

When the Bible talks about peace with God, it doesn't simply mean that God is no longer mad at you. It means that God is _____ you and _____ you.

B. Peace _____ God

In other words, it has less to do with your relationship to God, and more to do with your relationship to your circumstances.

Peace with God is the seed out of which the Spirit brings the peace of God.

C. Peace _____ others

Definition: peace is a _____ and _____ state of mind _____ God, people, and our circumstances that _____ from being _____ to God.

The _____ of peace, then, is _____ toward God, _____ toward others, and _____ toward our circumstances, the latter of which will often feel like _____ or _____.

II. _____ is peace a fruit of the Spirit?

The Bible presents God as the God of peace (the peace that God has in Himself) – Romans 15:33; 1 Cor 14:33; 2 Cor 13:11. The expression “**God of peace**” has to do with the peace that God has in Himself. This has to do with God’s character, with Who he is.

As with the other aspects of the fruit of the Spirit, we can say that peace is a fruit of the Spirit first because it is not a fruit of the flesh. Since the peace of Galatians 5:22 springs from reconciliation with God, the flesh cannot produce it, because the flesh cannot reconcile us to God.

Peace is an attribute of God. God is always at peace. He never panics. In Psalm 2 we read that the nations are taking counsel against God and His anointed, and what does He do? **He laughs!** No future scenarios can scare Him. Furthermore, He’s in control of all the future scenarios. Nothing happens except through Him and by His will. And He knows, ultimately, that He will work all things together for His glory. No matter how chaotic our world may seem, not a sparrow falls to the ground without our Heavenly Father knowing about it. However, panicked you may feel in a given moment, set your hope on this: God is not panicking. God is always at peace, so when the God the Holy Spirit comes to live in you, He produces peace. Peace is thus a fruit of the Spirit. It’s one of the things he is working in you if you are in Christ.

III. What are the _____ to peace?

A. _____ (**Proverbs 12:25; Matthew 6:25,33-34**)

B. _____ (**Psalm 3:5-6**)

C. _____ (**Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18**)

IV. How do we _____ in peace?

We want to learn how we can grow in peace. The Bible gives us a number of instructions in this area.

A. _____ in the Lord (Isaiah 26:3; John 14:1)

B. _____ God's word
(Psalm 119:165; Proverbs 3:17)

C. _____ and give _____ (Philippians 4:6-7)

D. Live in _____ with each other
(Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:15)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? How about this? God's peace is _____ not circumstantial, and it is _____ and not passive. The Lord actively dispenses peace to those whose minds are _____ upon Him. To that end, let us keep our _____ and our _____ focused on the Lord. Let us develop a _____ view of life and enjoy the peace it brings to our lives.

No peace with God? In Jesus, God bore the penalty that our sins deserve in order that we might enjoy the peace that He provides.

No personal peace...no peace of God? Disobedience to the clear instruction of the Bible and genuine peace in our hearts do not and cannot go hand in hand.

No peace with others?

Let's consider some practical, biblical steps we can take to pursue peace in conflicts with other believers:

- We must _____ that we are fellow _____ of the same _____.
- We remember that we are fellow members of one body, but we must also keep in mind that it is _____ body of which we are members.
- We must _____ that the _____ of discord often lies wholly or partly with us.
- We must take the _____ to restore peace.