

Peace

Lesson 4

I. **Peace** - The third manifestation of "the fruit of the Spirit" is "peace."

- "peace" - Gr. is "eirene" (ay ray' nay)

A. Those led by the Spirit of God are **peacemakers**. (Matt. 5:9; Rom. 12:18; 14:19; Jas. 3:17; 1 Pet. 3:10,11).

MAT 5:9 "**Blessed are the peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

ROM 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men**.

ROM 14:19 **So then let us pursue the things which make for peace** and the building up of one another.

JAM 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, **then peaceable**, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

1PE 3:10 For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile.

1PE 3:11 "And let him turn away from evil and do good; **Let him seek peace and pursue it**.

B. **Peacemakers are greatly needed today**.

- The fact we have a lot of material things does not mean we know how to get along with one another.
- The fact we live longer does not mean we have learned to get along with one another.
- The fact we are better educated does not translate to peace.

1. We need peacemakers in the **home**.

- a. The home should be a place of peace and love - not a place of hate and strife.
- b. The home is often made miserable because the husband or wife is a troublemaker. (Prov. 15:17).

PRO 15:17 Better is a dish of vegetables where love is, Than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

- c. Children can also be agitators and destroy peace in the home.
- d. The one who is moody, super-critical, a perfectionist who is impossible to please is not a peacemaker.
- e. **Peace in the home will not happen by accident**, but each family member must work at it.
- f. One troublemaker can make the home a miserable place.

2. We need peacemakers in the **church**.

- a. The devil loves a fight among God's people.
- b. **The results are fighting are very tragic**.
 - 1) Members become discouraged and fall away
 - 2) Sinners are not converted and distance themselves from the church.
 - 3) Little work is done.

4) The world becomes skeptical. (Jn. 17:20-23).

JOH 17:20 "I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

JOH 17:21 that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.

JOH 17:22 "And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one;

JOH 17:23 I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.

c. It is a very serious offence to split a church. (Prov. 6:16-19; Gal. 5:19-21). See Gal. 5:15.

PRO 6:16 There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

PRO 6:17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

PRO 6:18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

PRO 6:19 A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

GAL 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

GAL 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

GAL 5:21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

d. **This does not mean we should maintain peace at any price.**

1) This attitude is never taught in scripture.

2) Christians are warned not to follow false teachers. (Matt. 7:15; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Jn. 4:1).

e. We must contend for the faith. (Jude 3).

JUD 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints.

1) "epagoniomai" - "contend for, struggle in defense of"

2) "faith" is from "pistis" and is used here in the sense of the word of God, the gospel, truth (Acts 6:7; Gal. 1:23).

f. We must "contend earnestly for the faith," but this does not apply to matters of indifference and opinion.

g. We must be easily entreated in such matters, that is, we must be willing to compromise.

3. We need peacemakers in the **nation**.

a. We have people who are constantly stirring trouble.

b. We need people who seek to keep the nation at peace.

c. We need peacemakers who encourage men to honor God - not deny or ignore Him.

d. We need peacemakers who encourage good works and cooperate in good works. (Tit. 3:1).

II. Ways To Be Peacemakers

A. Practice the **Golden Rule**. (Matt. 7:12).

1. The command is not to ignore or be indifferent to one another.
2. We are to do to others what we want them to do to us.
 - a. This assumes you have normal people who love self and want to be happy. I
 - b. It is not meant for those who have an unhealthy attitude toward their own life.
 - c. It is assuming the person himself wants to be treated well.
3. How different our world would be if we treated others like we want to be treated!

B. **Return good for evil**. (Rom. 12:20,21).

1. Returning evil for evil only leads to more evil.
2. It does not make for peace. It puts fuel on the fire.

C. Be **easy to be entreated** in matters of opinion.

1. How to take care of orphans. (Jas. 1:27).
 - a. No methods are legislated.
 - b. All the arguments legislating how to provide for orphans are human opinions and not based on the word of God.
 - c. James 1:27 is the only New Testament verse that discusses the care of orphans.
2. Mandating methods of evangelism.
 - a. Matt. 28:19, 20 and Mk. 16:15 are very generic.
 - b. They do not legislate the method of evangelism. There is a lot of liberty regarding method.
 - c. We are mandates to preach the gospel to every nation and every person, but we have freedom in the methods.
 - d. A method becomes wrong if it violates any of God's commandments.
3. Old songs versus new songs should not divide us .
 - a. As long as the hymns are scriptural and praise God and edify one another we should not dispute over them.
 - b. There have been hundreds, even thousands, of inspirational and scriptural hymns written throughout the ages.
 - c. There will undoubtedly be thousands more written in the centuries to come.

D. **Forgiving spirit** (Col. 3:13).

1. Forgiveness is not putting a person on probation.
2. It is ceasing to hold the transgression against the person.

3. It is treating the person as though the transgression never occurred.
4. This is the way God treats us. (Heb. 8:12).

HEB 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more."

E. Do not look for trouble.

1. Some go around with a chip on their shoulder.
2. They are looking for something to fight about, and get fulfillment when there is trouble.
3. The Christian is looking for ways to keep peace.

F. Unselfish spirit. (Phil. 2:4).

1. Abraham was willing to let Lot have his choice of the land he wanted. (Gen. 13:7-11).

GEN 13:7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.

GEN 13:8 Then Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers.

GEN 13:9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me: if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left."

GEN 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere-- this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah-- like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

GEN 13:11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

- a. Abraham's unselfish spirit kept peace in the family.
 - b. A selfish spirit (on his part) would have split his family, and may have resulted in many deaths.
2. We must put others first.

G. Avoid foolish and ignorant questions. (2 Tim. 2:23).

2TI 2:23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.

1. Use of church building - There is no record of the 1st century church having church buildings, but they met in homes, rented places, and wherever they could meet.
2. Number of containers - No emphasis placed on the number of containers, but emphasis placed on drinking the fruit of the vine in remembrance of Jesus' blood shed in His death.
3. Bible classes - No commanded, but an excellent method of teaching God's word.
4. Baptistry - The command is to be immersed, but the place is not specified.
 - a. Any place where there is enough water for immersion is acceptable.
 - b. There is no command to use a lake or river or any specific body of water.
 - c. People can be scripturally baptized any place there is enough water to immerse.

H. Avoid unholy ambition for power and pre-eminence. (3 Jn. 9).

3JO 1:9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

1. A church with a "modern Diotrephes" is sure to have discord and endless trouble.
2. A church of servants (Christlike voluntary slaves) will prosper.
3. Paul's instructions are essential in our behavior toward others.

1CO 10:24 Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

I. **Avoid harsh and unkind words.** (Prov. 15:1).

PRO 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

1. Harsh and unkind words hurt and destroy.
2. Harsh and unkind words drive men away.
3. Harsh and unkind words lead to all kinds of trouble and even war.

J. **Recognize a standard source of authority.** (2 Tim. 3:16,17).

1. If each one is his own standard of authority, we are hopelessly divided.
2. We must speak where the Bible speaks. (1 Pet. 4:11).

1PE 4:11 Whoever speaks, **let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God**; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

3. We must not pervert the gospel. (Gal. 1:6-9).

GAL 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

GAL 1:7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

GAL 1:8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

GAL 1:9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

K. **Avoid envy** - It is like a cancer that eats away at the bones.

1. Over recognition
2. Leadership
3. Over possessions

III. **Inner Peace**

- A. Those led by the Spirit also have an inner peace. (Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:4-7).

JOH 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

PHI 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

PHI 4:5 Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

PHI 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

PHI 4:7 **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

1. The peace of the Christian surpasses human understanding.
2. The Christian can sing, "It is well with my soul."
3. He can sing this because He is in Christ - not because he is sinless.

B. The Christian has God as his Father, Jesus as his Savior, the Holy Spirit as his Comforter.

Conclusion.

- I. Let us abound in peace.
- II. Let us be at peace with God and others.

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