

The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

Various texts

What is Peace?

- It is not simply the lack of conflict
- In Scripture, the idea of peace is tied to wholeness, harmony, security and well being
- It means to have one's life centered on one's identity in Christ
 - It begins with peace with God

Peace with God

- Peace is one of God's defining characteristics (1 Cor. 14:33a; see also Rom. 15:33; 16:20a; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb 13:20)
- Real peace is having a right relationship with God, which is only possible through the person and work of Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1)
 - This was even announced at Jesus' birth (Luke 2:14)

Peace with Ourselves

- God's peace also gives us peace with ourselves
- It provides us security and rest from our striving to be good enough (Matt. 11:28-30)
- It is different from anything the world can offer (John 14:27)
- And it should change how we think and act (Phil. 4:7)

Peace with Others

- Christ first reconciles us to God
 - And then commands us to join Him in His ministry of reconciliation towards others (2 Cor. 5:18-20)
- And as He does this, Jesus makes us into a new creation that can be at peace with one another (Eph. 2:13-14)
- He commands us to pursue peace with others (Rom 12:18; 14:19)

So What?

- Do we know the God of Peace?
- Are we letting Him produce His peace in us?
- Are we pursuing peace with others?

Meditation Verse: Romans 5:1