

PEACE

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the fruit of the spirit called "peace" is desirable and attainable.
2. Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
 - a. These are actions which we as Christians should practice
 - b. Peace = unity, harmony and concord between individuals
 - c. Peace is the absence of discord; peace is found when one force works with another force in sweet and unbroken fellowship. There is no jar or irritation in the relationship. [Spiritual Sword Oct.81 Vol. 13 #1 p.8]
3. Every book in the N.T. except 1 John has the word Peace
 - a. Luke 1:79 "To give light to them that sit in darkness and [in] the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."
 - (1) Prophecy about Christ
 - (2) He would bring peace to the obedient
 - b. Luke 2:14 "...and on earth peace, good will toward men."
 - (1) Birth of Christ - heavenly host was praising God
 - (2) Peace and good will would come because of His birth
 - c. John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
 - (1) Jesus was talking to 11 of his disciples
 - (2) He promised to leave them peace
 - (3) It was not the worldly peace because it is not permanent

(4) But this peace was promised by the one who is the Prince of Peace - Isa. 9:6

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

4. Peace - an Acrostic -- Peace is...

Discussion

I. POSSIBLE In Christ

- A. Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
- B. Ephesians 2:13-16 "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15. Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16. And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"
 1. It is the Lord's intention for men to be at complete peace with one another as brothers in Christ.
 2. One of the saddest spectacles in the world is to see men who claim to be Christians and brothers in the Lord fighting one another.
 3. Christians are under obligation to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3
 4. We can have peace when brethren walk by the same rule - Phil. 3:16

- C. Eph. 6:15 "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;"
1. Preparation of the gospel of peace
 2. We have a message of peace and reconciliation -- the gospel
- D. Gen. 13:8-9 "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we be brethren. 9. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."
1. Peace is possible if we have a peaceable disposition
 2. Abraham had this
 3. He valued peace above the possession of a certain section of land.
- E. Rom. 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."
1. It is possible to live in peace
 2. But there are a few people with whom it is impossible.

II. ESSENTIAL By obedience

- A. Col. 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."
1. We can have peace and harmony with God because we are obedient to Him.
 2. Then He says we are called in the body to also have peace - not strife and discord

B. Heb. 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

1. Christians must not only seek peace among themselves but with all men.
2. 1 Cor. 3:3 "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"
3. Follow Peace - give peace a chase as in stalking game
4. Seek peace with everyone at all times
5. Without which no man shall see the Lord
 - a. Without peace and holiness you cannot see God
 - b. He is telling them how important these qualities are in their life!
 - c. Without God there is no salvation

C. God's laws about peace are just as certain as any other of his laws

1. One might defy the law of gravity by jumping from the top of a skyscraper. But he will pay for it with a crushed body when he hits.
2. One may ignore God's laws about purity and morality. But sooner or later he will pay the penalty - in disease, troubled conscience, untimely death, and loss of his soul.
3. We cannot ignore God's laws concerning peace without paying for it!!!
4. Galatians 6:7-8 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

III. AGREEMENT Among yourselves

- A. 1 Thes. 5:12-13 "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13. And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."
- B. Rom. 14:19 "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."
1. The "things" which make for peace apply to the home, the church and the nation.
 2. They include:
 - a. Love -
 - (1) Matt. 22:37-39 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38. This is the first and great commandment. 39. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
 - (2) John 15:12 "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."
 - (3) John 13:35 "By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
 - b. Peaceable disposition:
 - (1) Rom. 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."
 - (2) Isaac:
 - (a) Isaac showed a great desire for peace when the Herdsmen of Gerar strove with him for the possession of the wells of his father Abraham

- (b) He simply gave up his claim moved to another place and dug another well
- (c) The herdsmen of Gerar came and claimed it, and again Isaac moved.
- (d) After digging the third well, Isaac found peace for this time his right to the water was not contested.
- (e) Then he said "...For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." Gen. 26:22b

C. Mark 9:50 "Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."

1. Do not have a contentious spirit - but be at peace among yourselves
2. Strife would destroy their salt, peace would tend to preserve it
3. Salt (the spirit of Christ) will keep you from contention, quarreling, struggling for places and honors and instead you will seek each other's welfare and honor and glorify God.

D. Matt. 5:9 "Blessed [are] the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

1. Peace - he was talking about the right relationships among men
2. Some people are quarrelsome and contentious troublemakers
 - a. They stir up strife in families, communities and churches
 - b. Such people are doing the bidding of Satan!
3. Those godly men and women who work to eliminate bitterness among their brethren and to unite men in love and goodwill are doing the work of God! Those who have and enjoy peace desire others to have it.

4. Troublemakers will always reap the fruits of their labors in strife and unhappiness.
5. Peacemakers will experience the happiness which comes of sharing in the efforts of God to bring about wholeness, harmony and the achievement of good among men.
6. God is a God of Peace - Christ is the Prince of Peace --- The gospel is a gospel of peace. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of Peace. Therefore all subjects of this kingdom must be peacemakers.

E. If peacemakers are blessed, what of the peace breakers?

1. They are cursed!
2. If peacemakers are called sons of God, what should peace breakers be called?
Sons of the Devil.!

IV. CHRIST CENTERED

- A. Phil. 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
 1. In Giving men peace with God and themselves, Christ also gives them peace with one another.
 2. We are reconciled in the one body.
- B. Peace is so much a part of the character and work of God, no man could be his son who did not share this attribute.
- C. We have peace only in Christ !!!

- D. Illustration: Augustus heard that a man of Rome who was in great debt, slept quietly and took his ease. So Augustus desired to buy the bed that he slept on. Needless to say, it was a useless purchase for the great emperor.
- E. Acts 10:36 Peter preaching peace by Jesus Christ "The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: he is Lord of all:"

V. EFFORT

- A. Eph. 4:3 "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
1. Unity and peace go together
 2. Endeavoring = ASV giving diligence = to make haste, to be zealous.
 3. Unity and Harmony is gained and maintained by doing the will of God.
- B. 1 Peter 3:10-11 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11. Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."
1. Loving Life and seeing good days involves also seeking peace.
 2. Seek = hunt for
- C. Peace is not found when every instrument in an orchestra is silent, but when every instrument is making its own contribution with, and to, each and every other instrument. The result is a rich and melodious harmony.
- D. It takes diligent effort
1. Men have always longed for peace
 2. Peace is not secured by accident, chance nor some unusual circumstances.
 3. It is obtained through a recognition and submission to God's law.
 4. We must have a genuine deep - seated desire for peace !!

CONCLUSION

1. 2 Thes. 3:16 "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."
2. We are not to have peace at any price
 - a. There is a type of peace that Jesus did not come to bring - that is false peace.
 - b. We should never have peace at the expense of truth
 - c. We can never compromise with error in order to have peace.
3. Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"
 - a. We are called to the peace which comes from God.
 - b. Obedience to the plan of salvation brings peace with God.
 - c. We are no longer in rebellion to Him
4. Illustration: Two artists set out to make a picture representing perfect peace. The first painted a canvas depicting a carefree lad sitting in a boat on a little placid lake without a ripple to disturb the surface. The other painted a raging waterfall with winds whipping the spray about. On a limb, overhanging the swirling water a bird had built its nest, and sat peacefully brooding her eggs. Here she was safe from her predatory enemies, shielded and protected by the roaring falls. Real peace is the result of remaining calm and cool in the midst of trial.
5. "Peace is rarely denied to the peaceful." Schiller NDT. p. 472
6. "Peace rules the day, where reason rules the mind." - Collins NDT p.473