

## “God’s Spirit Fighting for (REAL) Peace”

### Galatians 5:14-26

In this passage Paul is calling our attention to a battle, a battle which is fought in every saved soul. A battle waged between God and Satan in families, in churches and even on the world stage ... a battle between the flesh and God’s Spirit!

- I. Our world, the flesh and the Devil are seeking, promoting even trying to force on us, their own brand of peace –

The American Heritage Dictionary defines “peace”-

Noun -

1. The absence of war or other hostilities.
2. An agreement or a treaty to end hostilities.
3. Freedom from quarrels and disagreement; harmonious relations: *roommates living in peace with each other.*
4. Public security and order: *was arrested for disturbing the peace.*
5. Inner contentment; serenity: *peace of mind.*

Used as a greeting or farewell, and as a request for silence.

Idioms: at peace - In a state of tranquility; serene: *She is at peace with herself and her friends.*

Free from strife: *Everyone wants to live in a world at peace.*

Keep (or hold) (one's) peace - To be silent. Keep the peace - To maintain or observe law and order: *officers who were sworn to keep the peace.*

1. People wrongly believe this peace can be attained without God, His Grace, or even belief in His existence –

- A. John Lennon of the Beatles in his song “Imagine” promoted such a peace could best be attained without God –

“Imagine there's **no heaven** It's easy if you try **No hell** below us  
Above us only sky Imagine all the people living for today

Imagine there's no countries It isn't hard to do Nothing to kill or die for  
And **no religion** too Imagine **all the people living life in peace**”

- B. I believe Paul is writing to the Galatians about a more insidious way of attempting to gain “peace” without God; that is thinking “peace with God” / justification might be attained by keeping the law -

<sup>6</sup> I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. (Gal 1:6-7 NKJ)

<sup>16</sup> "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. (Gal 2:16 NKJ)

2. Now, you may question, ‘pastor, how can you equate John Lennon (a 1960’s- 70’s Marxist) with the Pharisaic Jews of Paul’s day?’

- A. Both had a low view of sin: Lennon as a Marxist believed the only real sin was economic disparity / Those arguing with Paul thought they are righteous enough, could please God, attain salvation by keeping the law – THEIR SINS they did not see as so bad to receive God’s judgment. Both greatly underestimated human depravity!
- B. This is the SAME with any mere human, fleshly, attempt toward “peace” whether attempted through government, religion, meditation, drugs, psychology, sports, chocolate, etc... etc...
- C. Compare Revelation 6:1-8 with Revelation 13 in regard to “World Peace.”

- II. It is vitally important we not settle for a lesser peace –

<sup>14</sup> They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14 NKJ)

1. This we need to recognize as a great and constant tendency of the flesh, we seek the easy route to “peace” and comfort, even if it is not the best.
2. The Priests and prophets of Jeremiah’s day were promising the people peace and safety – in spite of their great sins!

3. *This is an easier message to preach – never speak about sin, never talk about judgment and Hell’s fires and you will be popular as a preacher –like a doctor who won’t tell his patients they are SICK!*

*Yet Scripture tells us we are sick –*

<sup>4</sup> **Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.**

<sup>5</sup> **Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints. <sup>6</sup> From the sole of the foot even to the head, *there is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.* <sup>7</sup> **Your country is desolate, Your cities are burned with fire; Strangers devour your land in your presence; And it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. (Isa 1:4-7 NKJ)****

*What can help a sinful nation or a sinful individual?  
Any non-biblical answer misses the MAIN problem – SIN!*

<sup>18</sup> **"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isa 1:18 NKJ)**

<sup>19</sup> **"I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to *him who is far off and to him who is near,*" Says the LORD, "And I will heal him." <sup>20</sup> **But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.****

<sup>21</sup> **"There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked." (Isa 57:19-21 NKJ)**

*III. True Peace cannot be attained without dealing with sin (the great disturber of peace) and only God Himself can bring this real peace –*

1. *Our God is called the God of Peace –*

**The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:9 NKJ)**

**Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJ)**

**Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (Hebrews 13:20 NKJ)**

**Our God has a monopoly on peace!**

2. *Nothing short of Christ’s death on the cross can save us from our sins and bring us REAL PEACE –*

**Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1 NKJ)**

*If we don’t have peace with God, we do not have any real peace –*  
<sup>21</sup> **"There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked." (Isa 57:19-21 NKJ)**

3. *The Holy Spirit applies this “peace” to our hearts –*

A. *All true believing Christians have “peace” with God through the cross of Christ*

B. *Believers attain peace of conscience from the Holy Spirit as a fruit of the Spirit –*

*This peace like the other aspects of the Spirit’s Fruit is attained by walking in the Spirit –*

**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16 NKJ)**

(1) *Pray to God for this peace*

(2) *If you would have “peace” with God and true peace of conscience wage a violent war against sin –*

**For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. (Galatians 5:17 NKJ)**

**And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:24 NKJ)**

(3) *Apply Christ’s blood to your sins – Romans 5:1; Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)*

(4) *Walk in the Spirit – Galatians 5:16 / Abide in Christ –*

**"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)**