

**Subject: *Bearing Spiritual Fruit – PEACE***

**Scripture: *Galatians 5:22-23***

We are considering what the Bible calls “the fruit of the Spirit.” We have looked at the importance of fruit as the evidence of a real Christian. This is the character of Christ that is produced when a person comes to Christ as Lord and Savior. First of all, there is love, then joy, and, the third kind of fruit, peace.

“Untold millions of dollars are spent annually in search of peace. Every year thousands of people seeking personal peace flock to professional counselors. Diplomats fly around the world pursuing peace between nations. Our court systems are jammed with cases arising from a breakdown of peace between individuals or corporations. Christians are not exempt from this turmoil of a sinful world. We, too, experience the anxiety of disquieting circumstances and the anguish of broken relationships. But peace should be a hallmark of the godly person, first because it is a Godlike trait: God is called the God of peace several times in the New Testament.” - Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*

## **1. The importance of peace and all spiritual fruit**

The fruit of the Spirit is the outward indicator of salvation. Spiritual fruit is the evidence that a person is saved and in the kingdom of God.

*Matthew 7:16-18* <sup>16</sup> You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

The nine fruit of the Spirit will all be present to some degree in a Christian’s life. These qualities are what a real Christian looks like. These nine qualities are not produced in isolation from each other, but in connection with each other. Where there is one, there are the others. It’s not like the grocery store where we can pick and choose the kind of fruit we like. The fruit of the Spirit is not ours to choose, but it is for God to produce in us. It is the kind of fruit He likes and expects in His children. Today we are focusing on the fruit of peace.

## **2. The identity of peace**

Peace is an essential quality of the Christian life. It is the birthright of every believer.

*Psalms 29:11* The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

*Romans 14:17* For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The Bible describes the kind of peace we all need.

### **A. Peace with God**

This is what the Bible calls “reconciliation.” In salvation God brings us into harmony with Him. Because of sin we are at enmity with God, but in Christ we are on good terms with Him. A life of peace begins when we are justified by faith in Christ

**Romans 5:1** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

This is where all peace begins. We cannot have peace within or peace with other people until we first have peace with God.”

#### B. Peace of God

It has been called peace of conscience. It is the assurance that it is well with your soul.

**John 14:27** *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

**Romans 8:6** *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

There are only two kinds of people: those who are carnally (fleshly) minded and those who are spiritually minded. One group has life and peace; the other has death. A pastor was greeting the people after the service and a lady said, “I didn’t appreciate that sermon one bit.” The pastor replied, “The devil didn’t like it either. So classify yourself.”

**Romans 15:13** *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Joy, peace, and hope go together.

**2 Thessalonians 3:16** *Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.*

#### C. Peace with ourselves

**Philippians 4:6-7** *Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep (guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

#### D. Peace with others

**Romans 12:18** *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

**Romans 14:19** *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*

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

Peace with others is a choice we make. Notice in each verse seeking peace is our responsibility.

It is our responsibility to protect and treasure peace with others in our church body.

**Ephesians 4:3** *Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

**Colossians 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.*

#### E. Peace in the midst of trials and troubles

A man and his wife went to the doctor. Something was wrong with him, but they weren’t sure what it was. The doctor looked at all the tests and motioned to his wife so he could have a private talk with her. He explained that her husband was suffering from extreme stress and

unless something changed it was going to kill him. On their way home the man said, “The doctor never said what was wrong. What did he tell you?” “He said you’re going to die.”

Peace is not the absence of problems; it is the presence of God in the midst of problems.

**John 16:33** *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

We know the Lord calmed the storm just by speaking to the winds and waves: “Peace, be still.” Sometimes He calms the storm and other times He allows the storm to rage, but He calms our heart in the midst of the storm.

### **3. The indwelling of peace**

#### **A. Keep your mind focused on God**

**Isaiah 26:3** *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

#### **B. Fill your heart with God’s Word**

**Psalms 119:165** *Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them (cause them to stumble).*

Peace is closely related to godly wisdom that comes from Scripture.

**James 3:17** *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

#### **C. Pray about all things**

Many things can “disturb the peace.”

**1 Peter 5:7** *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

Jerry Bridges: “We worry, fret, and scheme over distressing circumstances, and we envy or resent other people who appear to get a better deal in life, or who mistreat us in some way. The great antidote to anxiety is to come to God in prayer. We are to pray about everything. Nothing is too big for Him to handle, and nothing too small to escape His attention.”

### **Some questions to consider:**

- Do you have personal peace with God? Can you say it is well with my soul?

**John 14:1** *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

- Do you need to restore peace with someone who has hurt or offended you?
- Would others describe you as a peacemaker or a troublemaker?

**Matthew 5:9** *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

**2 Corinthians 13:11** *Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*