

# Jesus is our peace

Romans 5:1, John 14:27, 16:33

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**Introduction:** What is your idea of peace? Do you long for peace in your family, your life, your world, or even yourself? Is peace something external, internal, or both? Is peace something you can create or control? Is peace a perspective or a choice?

One of the primary gifts of Christmas is peace; peace of mind and heart. Jesus gifts us with peace despite our circumstances. Jesus often said, *“Go in peace.”* By sending Jesus, His Son, to be our mediator, we are gifted peace with God. In turn, as we trust in the Holy Spirit’s presence and work in our heart, we have peace with ourselves. Finally, as a result of the Trinitarian fellowship in us, we have peace with others.

Today, let’s explore these three aspects of peace and the different characteristics of how peace is played out in our life. We will explore peace with God, peace with oneself, and peace with others; and all that means for us as followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

## 1. Peace with God

### a) War with God?

Or at least “outside of God’s plan/will”? Why would anyone want to be at war with God?

Angry with God.

Hurt, and ultimately blame God.

Anything that comes between God and us IS AN IDOL.

Two parties (countries/sides) at the brink of war...

Send a delegation to discuss terms of peace...

God sent the ultimate “olive branch!”

Jesus invited us to the negotiating table...

The Terms: Complete Surrender... to HIS provision of the payment for our rebellion... Jesus Himself, the Perfect-spotless Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

What are we surrendering? Our control, our way, our selfishness, our pride (our idols) ... In turn, we receive the Gift of being made right with God (justification) and reconciliation.

## b) Peace with God.

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

δικαιώω *dikaioō*: to justify, vindicate, declare righteous, to put someone in a proper relationship with another, usually referring to God's relationship to humankind, implying a proper legal or moral relationship.

*"Peace"*, in this setting, means the **believer's harmony with God** rather than a subjective state within his or her consciousness. The objective meaning here is beyond all doubt, by Paul's assertion that the kind of peace he is referring to is peace *"with God."*

*"<sup>17</sup> If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God. Through Christ, God made peace [reconciliation] between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him. <sup>19</sup> God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace. <sup>20</sup> So we have been sent to speak for Christ. It is as if God is calling to you through us. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God. <sup>21</sup> Christ had no sin, but God made him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God."* (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) (NCV)

## 2. Peace with self

### a) Peace in your head.

*"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."* (John 14:27 NLT)

Peace is harmony, agreement, friendship, unity, reconciliation, and love. Peace can also mean calmness, serenity, composure, contentment, quiet, rest, and silence.

Peace is not, hate, discord, disagreement, fighting, frustration, upset, war, and worry.

The Biblical concept of *Shalom* means to complete or make whole... (healthy church, healthy disciple...), means to restore.

Chosen Greeting: *Shalom, Shalom...* perfect peace.

### b) Peace in your heart.

*"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)*

*"<sup>13</sup> If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. <sup>15</sup> For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. <sup>16</sup> For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. <sup>18</sup> And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."* (James 3:13-18)

### 3. Peace with others - (John 16:33)

#### a. Peace is Love

The key to peace with others is the question of love... (Mark 12:28-30) Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength... and love your neighbor as yourself. The way we can know how much we love God is to look at how much we love other people. Love, correctly understood and practiced, puts peace on the practical level. To truly have peace with others, you must love them as God loves them.

*"God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God."* (Matthew 5:9)

In the light of the Gospel, Jesus himself is the supreme peacemaker, making peace between God and us (Eph. 2:15-17; Col. 1:20) and among human beings.

#### b) Peace is a gift we receive and give.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* (John 14:27 ESV)

This is a peace far beyond, the absence of conflict. This is the kind of peace that actually puts others first. More than just tolerance, but relationship that values another as much as our Father values them. A peace that passes understanding.

*"Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. "* (Hebrews 12:14)

### PRAYER

*"<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

**P**racticing

**E**mpathy,

**A**mnesty,

**C**are &

**E**ngagement.