

Lesson 5

WHAT IS PEACE?

The fruit of the Spirit is ... peace
(Galatians 5:22).

One of the attributes of *agape* love is peace. For most people, peace is an ideal that seems unattainable. As much as man has sought peace, he has failed to truly achieve it. The history of man is full of war and violence, which is the same yesterday and today.

Peace is far more than the absence of war. For instance, if two boys are fighting at school, and the teacher separates them and makes them sit in opposite chairs in the room, you may think that peace is restored. But they're still glaring at each other, snarling, and just waiting for the restraints to be lifted so they can resume the fight. That isn't real peace.

1. Write Isaiah 57:20-21.

The Bible explains why man cannot have peace. Humanity, as a whole, has rejected God's plan for peace. Peace between men can only happen if there is first and foremost peace between man and God. The only way a person can achieve peace with God is to believe in His Son, "the Prince of Peace," Jesus Christ.

God's righteousness must first be established before peace can be experienced. When we have faith in God's Word and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the result is peace.

2. Write Romans 5:1.

3. Write Isaiah 32:17-18.

Simply put, as a believer, we stand in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and we will always have peace **with** God. Because of Jesus, we now have a right standing with God. However, even though we have peace **with** God, we still have a choice to have the peace **of** God with others.

4. Write what Jesus tells us about peace in John 14:27.

The peace of God can fluctuate by our actions or with our situations. Sometimes we fail to hold our peace because we speak too much about the nonessentials. When we open our mouths, out goes the peace! Circumstances can also tempt us to be fearful and worried. When we look to Jesus to be our peace, pray for the Holy Spirit to teach us, and study God's Word, we will see what the spirit of peace looks like.

5. Peace is holy. Write Hebrews 12:14.

Holiness is coupled with living in peace. A right relationship with God leads to right relationships with others. Although we will not always feel loving toward all people, we must pursue peace as we become more Christlike.

6. Peace is our guard. Write Philippians 4:6-7.

Do you want to worry less? Then pray more! Whenever you start to worry, stop, pray, and be thankful. Praying will give you the peace of God to guard your heart against anxiety and misunderstanding. The peace that surpasses all understanding is the peace that God wants you to share with others.

7. Peace is our umpire. Write Colossians 3:15.

God's peace should rule in our hearts. It's our referee. When our emotions and desires conflict within us and cause us to fear, distrust, and hate, we must allow peace to rule our decisions. We must choose whatever promotes peace. Let peace rule in your heart.

8. Peace is humble. Write James 4:1, 6.

The cure for war is humility. Pride makes us self-centered, and when we don't get what we want, we fight to have it. When we humble ourselves before God, the Holy Spirit fills us and helps us to think of others, so we are peaceable.

9. Peace blesses enemies. Write Luke 6:27-28.

Jesus gives the formula to achieve peace with others. Loving our enemies, doing good to those who hate us, blessing those who curse us, and praying for those who abuse us. These are the visible actions of the fruit of peace that others can see in our lives.

10. Write Ephesians 4:2-3.

11. Write Isaiah 26:3.