

Fruit Of The Spirit — Peace

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

? Why is it important to know what peace is?

The Bible mentions peace hundreds of times, but peace doesn't come with a quick and easy definition. Most of us could probably come up with a definition of peace that sounds good, but do we really understand the depth and breadth of this five-letter word? As we read passages through the Bible, observe the context of peace in each passage, the type of speech, how it works in the passage, and a definition of peace in each passage.

I. Peace in the Old Testament

Questions to help examination:

- What does peace look like in this context?
- Does it illuminate anything about God?
- Does it reveal anything about his people or us?
- What is the function or peace?
- Who are the players involved in the peace?
- Is there a cost to peace? If yes, what is it?
- What do we learn about peace with others?
- What do we learn about peace with God?

Remember the goal is not to necessarily answer each question, but to really understand peace from each passage. These questions are guides.

Books of the Law & Books of History

- Leviticus 19:1-7
- Numbers 25:10-13 (or starting at verse 1 for context)
- 2 Kings 9:17-22 (through vs. 37 for more context)

Books of Wisdom

- Psalm 4
- Psalm 119:161-168
- Proverbs 12:17-20

Major Prophets

- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Isaiah 36:13-22
- Isaiah 54: 10-13
- Jeremiah 8:6-12

? Can one in a peace treaty still take actions of war? Does this have implications for you and God?

II. Peace in the New Testament

New Testament

- Romans 5:1-5
- John 14:25-31

? How does Jesus give peace (John 14:27) while still caring for our tangible needs? “Go in peace” doesn’t mean anything unless it comes with something tangible. How does Jesus back up his “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you”?

? “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1). How does His peace look different than the world’s peace?

- James 2:14-17

? What does it look like to give peace to others?

- Ephesians 2:11-22

? What is the wall between God and us?

? How did He bridge it? Why did He bridge it?

? Whom did He preach peace to? Who are the far off? Who are the near?

? Isn't this healing the divisions between mankind: Jesus as the bridge between ethnicities, political parties, interests, ideology, and personality? In Him we are all one new man. Do you agree or disagree? Is there anything that this is missing?

- Matthew 10:34-39

- Galatians 5:16-25

? What additional connotations does the word peace in this list bring to you now after studying all the previous passages?

? How does this peace contrast gratifying the desires of the flesh? Is it possible to experience this peace without the Spirit?

Application Question

? How could walking with the Spirit lead to increased peace in your life?