

The Fruit of the Spirit is Peace

February 11, 2018

Scripture:

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³gentleness, self-control; against such things
there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23 ESV)

⁷When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes
even his enemies to be at peace with him. (Prov.
16:7 ESV)

From the Introduction:

The Greek word for peace, *eirēnē*, was often used in a civil sense to describe the opposite of war or dissension. However, the word is also understood to mean “harmony, accord” and is associated with the Author of peace (Eph. 2:14); it is in this sense the Apostle Paul relates the Fruit of the Spirit.

Share:

- 1) Read Matt. 5:9, 44. Jesus tells his listeners that those who seek peace are truly God’s children (v. 9). He then offers instruction on what it takes to be a peacemaker (v. 44). How significant is our willingness to make peace inside and outside the body of Christ to our growth in the Lord?

Serve:

- 1) How is peace being manifested in your life? Do you find yourself anxious or impatient towards God and others? What can you do to allow the spiritual fruit of peace to grow in your life?

Prayer:

The quote, “Pray for peace!,” is familiar to most of us, but what does it mean? So often we pray for external peace from war and turmoil. This week let your prayer for peace be an internal prayer. Pray that change will begin with you, and then see what God will do through you in others.

- 1) Peace _____ social hostility.
 - a) In the world, politicians seek to _____ social hostility through words of peace.
 - b) In the body of Christ believers _____ social harmony through the Spirit of peace.

- 2) Peace _____ godliness.
 - a) Attempts at worldly peacemaking often stem from a desire to _____ pain and suffering, and not necessarily improve character.
 - b) Living in Spiritual peace cannot stem from a desire for satisfaction, but the desire to _____ godliness in one's life.

- 3) Peace _____ God.
 - a) Attempts at worldly peace often seek to ignore God's desire and focus on man's, bringing _____ to the Lord.
 - b) Developing Spiritual peace places God's desires over self, bringing _____ to the Lord.

Remember:

Take every care to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. (Eph. 4:3 NJB)

Reflect:

"If each assembly, ours included, will take the chip of imaginary superiority off their shoulders and quit saying and thinking that others will have to come their way, it will be vastly better for us all, for we don't have to come your way, nor do you have to come ours, but we must all go God's way, or go to pieces."¹

Seek:

- 1) This past Friday night saw the opening ceremonies of the 23rd Winter Olympics take place. Every four years athletes from all over the world converge on a previously determined location to compete for gold in unity and camaraderie. Even political leaders attempt to put aside the deep-seeded animosity they hold for each other in the name of peace. In two weeks, however, the world will return to its natural state, and peace will pass. Take a few moments and consider the times in your life when you sought peace by your own power and will. Did it create a permanent peace? If not, what was it that caused you to lose the peace you so desperately sought?

¹ William H. Piper, "The Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace," *The Latter Rain Evangel*, June 1911.