

4. Peace, like Jesus

While waiting to begin please discuss:

1. What does “peace” make you think of?
2. What are some of the *enemies* of peace?

The fruit of the Spirit... becoming more like Jesus

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

Expect – the Lord to work

Pray – for the Lord to work

Learn – from the Lord Jesus

“Peace” is at the heart of the Bible...

the “God of peace” – e.g. Hebrews 13:20

the “covenant of peace” – Isaiah 54:10

the “prince of peace” – Isaiah 9:6

the gospel of peace – Ephesians 6:15

Peace with God → Peace of heart → Peace with others

1. Peace with God

God’s enemies – Ephesians 2:3

Now reconciled – Ephesians 2:13-18

2. Peace of heart

Christian peace is the heart at rest *in God* – it is a confidence that the Lord is *with you*.

Consider Jesus’ peace:

- *not* “peace and quiet”! or the absence of extreme emotion
- *but* confidence that His God and Father was *with Him*

Our peace:

- “access... to the Father” – Ephesians 2:18
- “Do not be afraid” → peace and prayer

3. Peace with others

A dividing wall of hostility – Ephesians 2:14

Pursuing the peace that we’ve been given – Ephesians 4:3

- Romans 12:18, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”
- Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”
- Like Jesus, e.g. Luke 22:47-51

Questions to discuss

1. Read Philippians 4:6-7, and talk about inner peace / peace of heart:
 - What is the route to God’s peace?
 - Why do we often find it easier to speak to other people (or to ourselves) rather than speaking to our Father in heaven?
2. Think next about peace in our relationships:
 - What about Jesus’ example as a peacemaker do you find most encouraging or challenging?
 - Can you think of specific ways in which the Lord is calling you to sow seeds of peace in your relationship with someone?