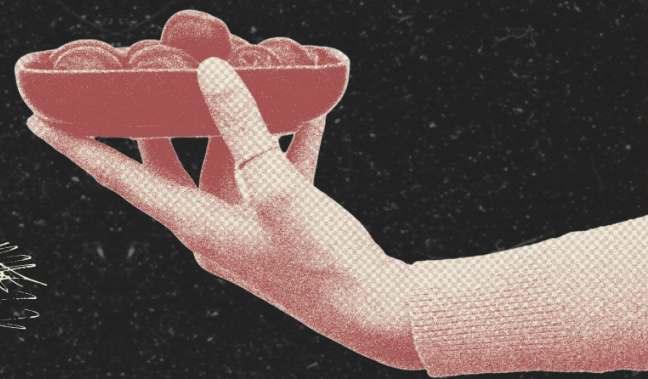


Fruit of the Spirit



LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF-CONTROL



“PEACE”

ROMANS 5:1-11; COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

Peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is a central blessing of God's redemptive work. Michael Deeren helped us see why humanity lacks peace and how the Lord Jesus restores it. Because of sin, humanity does not have peace with God. True peace only comes by reconciliation to God through the death and resurrection of Christ. Apart from justification and forgiveness, man has no peace. Genuine inner peace flows from being right with God. Through faith, prayer, trust in God's promises, and confidence in His sovereignty, believers can experience stability even amid anxiety, suffering, illness, financial hardship, grief, and uncertainty. Because of the cross, outward turmoil does not eliminate inward peace when God is trusted. This peace with God produces peace with others. The gospel not only reconciles people to God but also reconciles believers to one another. The church is a community where people who might otherwise have little in common are one in Christ. Christians are therefore called to pursue forgiveness, humility, reconciliation, and unity.

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: Have you been reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ? If so, what effect has this produced in your life? Be specific.



// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: What's the difference between seeking peace in circumstances and peace in Christ? How might you distinguish between the two?

:: How does the world define peace differently than the Scripture?

:: What does it mean to trust God's sovereign control over your life? Give examples.

:: How does God's sovereignty help you face uncertainty and suffering?

// GETTING TO CHRIST

:: How does understanding the seriousness of sin help us appreciate the peace Christ purchased on the cross?



// GETTING TO CHRIST

:: How does Christ's finished work on the cross provide a stronger foundation for peace than our emotions or experiences?

:: Look again at **Romans 5:1-11**. Explain how peace with God (verse 1) and access into grace (verse 2) produces the ability to “**rejoice in our sufferings**” (verse 3).

// GETTING TO YOU

:: What anxieties do you need to bring before God in prayer?

:: What is humanity's greatest problem?

:: When anxiety arises, what truths about God do you most need to remember?



// GETTING TO YOU

:: How have you seen God bring good from a difficult circumstance in your own life?

:: How does regular Bible reading strengthen peace during stressful seasons?

// GETTING TO OTHERS

:: How could having peace with God provide a good witness to the power of the gospel to an unbeliever?

:: Are there any relationships in your life where you need to pursue peace? What are some steps you can take toward reconciliation?

:: How can our church demonstrate the peace of Christ to one another and to the culture?

