

Jesus and the Fruit of the Spirit (3)

Ponder: Jesus, our peace.

Scripture: “. . . And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6, NKJV).

Someone wisely stated, “There will be no peace as long as God remains unseated at the conference table.” Five times the New Testament refers to our God as “the God of peace.” Christ’s gospel is called the “gospel of peace” twice. Obviously, peace is an important aspect of God’s very nature.

Peace includes the absence of conflict, but certainly is not limited to that. It includes the presence of harmony, friendliness, serenity, and security in your relationship with God and with others. It certainly does not mean neutrality! Jesus was never neutral regarding right and wrong. He Himself said that if we are not for Him, then we are against Him (Matthew 12:30). Neutrality is siding with the devil by default!

Jesus lived peace. He had perfect peace with God the Father, with no sin to alienate Him. Certainly sinful men opposed Jesus, but as much as depended on Him, He was at peace with everyone (compare Romans 12:18).

Jesus taught peace. In His matchless Sermon on the Mount, He said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). The apostle Paul wrote concerning Jesus, “And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off (i.e. Gentiles), and to those who were near (Jews)” (Ephesians 2:17).

Jesus made peace. Under His direction, Simon (not Peter), who was a member of the fiercely anti-Roman Zealot party (Luke 6:15) worked alongside Matthew Levi, who collected taxes for the Roman government! But in an even greater way, Jesus made peace through His sacrificial death on the cross. He made it possible for sinners to have peace with God, and for people from different backgrounds to be at peace in the church. “Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

In short, Jesus IS our peace. “He Himself is our peace, who has made both (Jew and Gentile) one, having broken down the middle wall of separation” (Ephesians 2:14).

Let us, like Jesus, produce the fruit of the Spirit, including peace! “Seek peace, and pursue it” (1 Peter 3:11). “Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thessalonians 5:13).

Song: “Peace, Perfect Peace”

Prayer: God of peace, we praise and thank You for the Prince of Peace. Indeed He is our peace, for He gave Himself to cleanse us from our sin that made us Your enemies. We thank You for the peace we have with You through Him. In His name, Amen.

Joe Slater (Justin, TX)

jaslater1954@gmail.com