

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PEACE

LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION

Men's attempts at peace:

Epicurus: "Add not to his possessions, but take away from his desires."
Human desires make life a battleground.

Kill emotion - peace is lost when you allow anyone the keys to your heart.

Stoics: Become indifferent toward every external thing which can be affected by forces and circumstances beyond one's control.

I. THE NEW TESTAMENT IS A BOOK OF PEACE

A. "EIRENE" - "Peace"

1. Occurs eighty-eight times. Found at least once in every book.
2. Most common in greetings: "Grace and peace" (Rom.1:7, I Cor. 1:3, Eph. 1:2, Rev. 1:4, etc.)

II. PEACE AND HEBREW "SHALOM"

A. "Eirene" translates Hebrew word "shalom" in the LXX.

B. "Shalom" - "everything that makes for a man's highest good."

1. Not just life without conflict, but a life enjoying all the good gifts and blessings of God. (Psm. 38:3, Gen. 43:27, Job 15:21)
2. Serenity and tranquillity (Psm. 4:8)
3. Human friendship (Jer. 20:10).

III. PEACE COME FROM GOD

- A. From the God of peace (Rom.15:13, 33; Phil.4:7, 9; IThess. 5:23, Heb. 13:20,21, 2 Cor. 13:11).
- B. From Jesus Christ (John 20:19, 21, 26; 14:27)
- C. Trust put into obedient action (Rom. 2:10).

IV. PEACE COMES FROM RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS IN ALL SPHERES OF LIFE.

- A. Between man and God (Rom. 5:1, Col. 1:20)

B. Between man and man (Heb. 12:14, I Cor. 7:15)

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C. Between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:14-17).

D. Between members of the church (Eph. 4:3, Col. 3:15).

V. PEACE MUST BE DILIGENTLY SOUGHT AND PURSUED

A. I Pet. 3:11

B. Pet. 3:14

QUESTIONS:

1. In your own words, sum up ancient philosophy concerning having peace in your life?
2. Why can we say that the New Testament is a Book of Peace?
3. Considering the Hebrew word for peace, "shalom," what is the concept of peace?
4. Explain why God is called a God of peace?
5. Reflecting upon John 14:27, peace from Jesus is something man (a) ACHIEVES (b) RECEIVES (c) CAN'T REFUSE.
6. While peace is from God, describe man's part in having peace with God?
7. Why under the New Covenant can Jew and Gentile have peace with each other?
8. What place does peace have in fellowship within the church?
9. Does God command us to have peace with our fellow man regardless of circumstances?
10. What should be our attitude toward having peace with each other? Give some examples of how you can put such an attitude into action:

11. What spiritual thoughts did you dwell upon this week that produced peace in you?