

LOVE Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

54 – Peace – Made possible by God

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
live at **peace** with everyone.

Romans 12:18 (NIV)

PEACE

INVOLVES A HARMONIOUS
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO ENTITIES.

ABSENCE OF
CONFLICT
RIGHT
RELATIONSHIPS

PLEASANT CIRCUMSTANCES
OR FEELINGS

WELL-BEING IN ALL
AREAS OF LIFE

Scripture describes
different types of "peace."

Peace with GOD.

Peace with other PEOPLE.

Peace with SELF.

Peace with CREATION.

Our sin **DESTROYED** our ability to have peace.

This is why Scripture says:

"...the way of **peace** they do not know."

Romans 3:17 (NIV)

BUT GOD,
BECAUSE OF HIS
UNDESERVED, GRACIOUS
KINDNESS...

God has **RESTORED** some of our ability to
have peace.

- God has graciously enabled unsaved people to comprehend some aspects of peace – and to often desire it ... even when unable to attain it.
- God has graciously enabled his followers to grow in aspects of peace that unsaved people cannot even begin to comprehend ... even in "unpeaceful" situations.

★ Since peace is not a natural part of sinful
human thinking, God has to reveal it to us. ★
He ENABLES us to comprehend and experience it.

TWO ways that God reveals
what "peace" is:

Through the world around us –

(also known as "General Revelation")

- God provides us with a basic awareness of various aspects of good (including peace) and evil.
- Because of sin, people tend to suppress this awareness.

Through Scripture –

(also known as "Special Revelation")

- God clearly defines good (including peace) and evil.
- God uses this to save people and change their values.

GENERAL Revelation

&

the "PEACE" that God reveals through it

THIS INCLUDES
ATHEISTS!

(What is "General Revelation"? More examples)

- People who do not have the Bible still have some God-given awareness of their moral obligations.
- They demonstrate that God's law is written within them, for their own consciences either accuse them or tell them they are doing what is right.

Romans 2:15 (NLT)

- Even the act of choosing to sin has made us aware of the difference between right and wrong (though by nature we choose the wrong and distort what is right!)

And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:22a (NIV)

What is "General Revelation"? EXAMPLES

- The goodness of creation reveals something about what God is like.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Psalm 19:1 (ESV)

- Our very beings reveal something about God, because we were created in God's image!

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

PEACE THAT IS REVEALED THROUGH GENERAL REVELATION

- Limited in scope; can be understood by unsaved people.
- Focuses on the "external." Based primarily on circumstances, events, emotions and feelings.
- The Old Testament often mentions these types of peace (and sometimes the New Testament does).

And there was also **peace** between Israel and the Amorites in those days.

1 Samuel 7:14 (NLT)

FOR UNSAVED PEOPLE:

- This peace is temporary; it will end at death.

Unsaved people tend to **SUPPRESS** this revelation.

- They cannot escape this revelation... but they tend to suppress their awareness of it.

... those who in their wickedness suppress the truth.

Although they know God's just requirement—that those who practice [sinful] things deserve to die—they not only do these things but even applaud others who practice them.

Romans 1:18b, 32 (ISV)

 Yet to whatever degree unsaved people haven't suppressed their awareness of this revelation, they can comprehend some (but not all) aspects of peace.

SPECIAL Revelation

&

the "PEACE" that God reveals through it

What is "Special Revelation"?

- God reveals some things to us only through Scripture.
- The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to change us and make us more like Christ.

"... what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

1Corinthians 2:9b-10a (ESV)

THIS INCLUDES:

- All things related to salvation and spiritual growth.
- A clearer understanding of those things revealed in "general revelation."

PEACE THAT IS UNDERSTOOD THROUGH SPECIAL REVELATION

ITS SOURCE: THE MESSAGE OF SCRIPTURE – THE "GOSPEL OF PEACE"

... the gospel of peace.
Ephesians 6:15b (ESV)

... the **peace of God**...
Philippians 4:7a (ESV)

GIVEN BY JESUS
"Peace I leave with you; My **peace** I give to you; ..." John 14:27a (NASB)

THE RESULT OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE
But the fruit of the Spirit is ... **peace**, ...
Galatians 5:22a (NASB)

PEACE THAT IS UNDERSTOOD THROUGH SPECIAL REVELATION

- It applies to all areas of life.
- It's beyond normal human ability to comprehend.

✓ **Unsaved** people cannot comprehend it.
✓ **Saved** people can, as they grow in their salvation.

And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, ...

Philippians 4:7a (ESV)

- The New Testament often mentions this type of peace (and sometimes the Old Testament does).

You keep him in perfect **peace** whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:3 (ESV)

- This peace is NOT based on circumstances. Rather ...

THE PEACE THAT GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE CAN EXIST EVEN IN UNPLEASANT SITUATIONS.

WHEN JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES...

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**. In this world you will have **trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33 (NIV)

FOR SAVED PEOPLE:

- NOW:** This peace can be experienced in part.
- WHEN JESUS RETURNS:** It will be complete and permanent.

There are also FAKE types of peace.

Watch out for them and avoid them!

PRETENSION
HYPOCRISY
LIES
DISTORTION



EXAMPLES OF FAKE PEACE (1)

WORDS THAT CONTRADICT MOTIVES

... troublemakers who speak of **peace** with their neighbors but have evil in their hearts.
Psalm 28:3b (GW)

FALSE PROPHETS WHO PROMOTE A "POSITIVE" MESSAGE THAT IS CONTRARY TO FACT

They keep saying to these rebels who despise my word, 'Don't worry! The Lord says you will have **peace**!'
And to those who stubbornly follow their own evil desires, they say, 'No harm will come your way!'
Jeremiah 23:17 (NLT)

EXAMPLES OF FAKE PEACE (2)

THIS WAS AN INSTANCE OF FLATTERY (TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE GOVERNOR)!

... Tertullus presented his case before Felix:
"We have enjoyed a long period of **peace** under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude."
Acts 24:2b-3 (NIV)

THOSE WHO OPOSE GENUINE PEACE MAY CAUSE ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE FOR THOSE WHO LOVE IT.

As for me, I am for **peace**; but when I speak, they are for **war**!
Psalm 120:7 (NLT)

BUT GENUINE PEACE FROM GOD IS NOT EXTINGUISHED BY THOSE WHO OPOSE IT

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**. In this world you will have **trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33 (NIV)

Your Mission...

AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS, PURSUE PEACE ... ALL ASPECTS OF IT!

(BUT MAKE SURE IT'S GENUINE PEACE!)

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone."
Romans 12:18

PEACE & PEACEMAKING

These two words are to characterize the lives of *all* who follow Jesus. If it doesn't, it's because we *aren't* following Jesus.

HOW ARE WE TO LIVE? CHARACTERIZED BY PEACE!

A part of our character.

- We are to pursue peace - 2 Timothy 2:22; 2 Peter 3:14; 1 Peter 3:11.
- God's children endeavor to promote peace - Matthew 5:9.

Living in peace with others.

- "Peace-living" is our duty - Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14.
- It's part of our "calling" - Colossians 3:15.
- It's one of the things that the kingdom of God is all about - Romans 14:17-19.

MORE ABOUT THIS PEACE:

It's from God.

- Many Scripture passages describe this type of peace as being from God - Romans 15:33; 16:20; from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ - Romans 1:7; Galatians 1:3; etc.

- It was made possible through Jesus Christ - Ephesians 2:14-15; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20.
- The Holy Spirit's work in our lives makes it possible - Romans 8:6; Galatians 5:22.
- Peace is a reflection of God's nature (unlike its opposite) - 1 Corinthians 14:33.

God tells us how to obtain it:

- It's a part of the good news (gospel) that we are to proclaim - Ephesians 6:15; Acts 10:36.
- Peace with God is one of the results of trusting God in salvation - Romans 5:1; 15:13.
- It's associated with obedience (to God) and doing good - Romans 2:10; of following Paul's example of how to live - Philippians 4:9.
- It may be the result of God's discipline - Hebrews 12:11.
- It's the result of pursuing godly wisdom - James 3:17-18.

More about our obligation to pursue it:

- We must pursue it with everyone (if at all possible) - Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14.
- We must pursue it with God's people - Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:15; 2 Corinthians 13:11.
- We must let it control our lives - Colossians 3:15.

GOD'S PEACE VS. THE WORLD'S PEACE:

- God's peace will protect our hearts and minds - Philippians 4:7; it can exist during times of trouble - John 16:33.
- In times of trouble, the world's peace is like wishful thinking - 1 Thessalonians 5:3; they do not know what peace really is - Romans 3:17.