



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 20
The week of April 25, 2021

A Life Well Lived

People of Peace
Galatians 5:22

DISCUSSION OPENER

Someone once asked a good question: *“If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”*

1. What kind of “evidence” or outward manifestations do we ordinarily suggest as a basis for conviction?
2. What is a better test that one is an authentic follower of Christ other than keeping up appearances?

Read Galatians 5:13-23

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

3. Before we explore the third fruit of the Spirit, namely peace, what is the overall contrast the Apostle is making in this passage?
4. Consider the acts and attitudes of the flesh (19-21) and the fruit of the Spirit (22-23). What is the origin or source of both lists, respectively?
5. The works of the flesh are the acts and attitudes of an unregenerate life. The fruit of the Spirit refers to the qualities the Triune God produces in us. What difference does it make when we understand that these qualities do not derive from self, but from the Spirit?

THE FRUIT OF PEACE

STUDY NOTE

The Old Testament word for peace is the Hebrew word *shalom* (which occurs over 250 times in the Old Testament) that conveys the idea of wholeness and well-being. It describes everything being as it should be.

The New Testament word for peace is the Greek word *eirene* (we get our word irenic from it) and was often used in a political sense to describe a town or village that was well-run—where things operated efficiently, where people got along with each other, where prosperity and opportunity prevailed.

6. How would you describe a life where *shalom* or *eirene* prevailed?

Jesus **promises** us peace. So, how do we **experience** it when life is overwhelming?

I. When the Pressure of Life is On, You are Not Alone

Read John 14:16-18; 25-27

¹⁶“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

7. Jesus said it was better for Him to go away so that the Holy Spirit could come. Why is that better?

8. Jesus does not promise peacefulness, but He does promise peace. What is the difference?

9. “How does the peace of God differ from the peace the world gives?”

II. When the Pressure of Life is On, God’s Peace is Supernatural

Read Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Paul calls it a peace “which surpasses all understanding.”

10. How would you describe this kind of peace to someone else?

11. Share about a time in your life when you experienced this kind of peace.

III. When the Pressure is On, Remember God's Word

Read John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

12. One of the things that causes anxiety in our lives is indecision—we're not sure what to do. What does Jesus tell us the Holy Spirit will do?

Read Isaiah 48:17-23

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. ¹⁸ Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea; ¹⁹ your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me.”

²⁰ Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth; say, “The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob!”

²¹ They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and the water gushed out. ²² “There is no peace,” says the Lord, “for the wicked.”

13. What does God promise us when we pay attention to His commands?

14. What happens when we don't take time to listen to His Word or keep in step with the Spirit?

Closing Prayer for Peace

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all” (2 Thessalonians 3:16, NLT).

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (Colossians 3:15, ESV).

“Lord Jesus, there's no part of our being, chapter in our stories, or place in the universe outside your interest and care. You are Creator and Sustainer, Redeemer and Restorer, Lord and Lover of your people. Because of your finished work, our Father is at peace with us and we have peace with him. Hallelujah!

Today we come to you, as the Lord of Peace, seeking a greater measure of your peace in our hearts, relationships and circumstances. Hear our prayers; grant us grace; increase our peace.

We pray for our marriages. Of course, Satan doesn't want our marriages to thrive, or even survive, because marriage is designed to reveal your great love for your Bride, the church. Of course, we act foolishly in our marriages, for we wrongly assume the right human partner can “fill us up.” Forgive us and free us, O Lord. Bring ongoing repentance, refreshment, and renewal to our marriages.

We pray for our children—made for wonder, but prone to wander. Jesus, thank you for the privilege of parenthood. At times, nothing gives us greater delight; at other times, nothing brings us greater frustration. Thank you that our easiest children aren't beyond the need of your grace; and our most challenging children aren't beyond the reach of your grace. Free us to parent as Abba Father parents us.

We pray for our vocations and vacations, our health and hardships, our world and our worries... into all these spheres, assure us you're working for our good, and your glory.

Lastly, we pray for our hearts—already new by the gospel, but still tempt-able and seduce-able, capable of great nobility and great foolishness. Compel us with your love, gentle us with your peace, and transform us with your grace. Jesus, keep us thirsty for you, humble before you, and satisfied in you. So very Amen we pray, in your all beautiful and all grace-full name.”

Sermon Notes: *People of Peace*

Galatians 5:22

THE
BIBLE RECAP
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, April 25 thru Saturday, May 1, 2021

1 Chronicles 3-5; Psalm 73, 77-78; 1 Chron. 6;

Ps. 81, 88, 92-93; 1 Chron. 7-10; Ps. 102-104;

2 Samuel 5, 1 Chron. 11-12;

