

## **“Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.” Matt 5:9**

Biblical definition of peace – “shalom” (OT) and “eirene” (NT): wholeness, soundness, health, welfare, prosperity, good, lack of war, harmonious relationships, order, in communion/relationship with God. To make peace is to use the anointing of the Holy Spirit to bring peace to a situation of trouble, turmoil, or a broken relationship. Contrast this with peace keepers who keep a false sense of peace by avoiding or denying the conflict. This is rarely the easy road (John 16:33).

“Sons of God” are heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace is coming again to bring literal peace to the earth through his kingdom through much violence (Rev 19:15-16, Romans 16:20). He will overtake every nation’s government and destroy the unrepentant evil, death and Satan forever! He is our Prince of Peace because through His blood and his righteousness, we can have peace WITH a holy, spotless, sovereign, omnipotent, jealous God – YHWH (Jehovah or LORD). Romans 5:1

Peace stealers:

- 1) Sin – lack of righteousness (James 3:16-18, Isa 32:17, Rom 8:6, 3:17, 2 Tim 2:22)
- 2) Fear - (Phil 4:7, John 14:27, Romans 8:15-17)
- 3) Rebellion – (Romans 13:1, Col 3:15, Job 22:21)
- 4) Offense - (Romans 12:17-19)
- 5) Love of chaos/turmoil/drama - (James 4:1, Isaiah 26:3)
- 6) Lack of faith - (Romans 15:13)
- 7) Boredom - (James 4:1, Proverbs 29:17, Hebrews 12:11)

Biblical Peace is not:

- 1) Hippie love, anti-war, free-spirit mentality that we learned about in the 60’s (and many still try to practice today). Biblical peace is not a feeling of easiness or the opposite of conflict. This false peace is a peace apart from the Lordship of Christ (Ezekiel 7:25, Matthew 10:34)
- 2) New-age, self-help, quiet meditative state of tranquility that can be found by seeking “inner peace”. Note biblical peace is peace “like a river” not a quiet pond.

Peace Like a River – A river is used in the bible as a symbol of plenty and prosperity (never running out); river is picture of food and healing flowing from the throne/ Lamb in Rev 22.

Our picture of Perfect Peace - The voice from heaven is like the voice of “many waters” in Revelation (Rev 1:15, Rev 14:2, and Rev 19:6). Contrast this with the harlot who sits on many waters Rev 17:1. Harlot religion represents love of self, good will, feeling of harmony, peace and safety, love of pleasure, comfort, and luxury. It is self-seeking, self-indulgent, and self-gratifying. Rev 17:15-17 says that “God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose to be of one mind and to give their kingdom to the beast”. Deception starts with the harlot religion that will seduce us to love our selves and gratify our sinful, fleshly desires. Then, suddenly this will be replaced by a forced worship of the beast (anti-Christ). There will be a great falling away (2 Thess 2:1-4).

Listen to the voice of Christ, the voice of many waters (Rev 1:15, 14:2, Ezek 1:24, 43:2, Psalm 29) for true, perfect peace. “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son” Rev 21:7 (peacemakers are sons of God). Ironically, if we die to our flesh and earthly desires now to seek true peace, we will be rewarded with “all things” as sons of God. “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” (Rev 12:11)

**John 16:33** “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”

**Romans 5:1** “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we [ Or let us] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

**Ezekiel 7:25** “When terror comes, they will seek peace, but there will be none.”

**Matthew 10:34** “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.” (Also see Luke 12:51)

**Romans 16:20** “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”

**James 3:16-18** “For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

**Isaiah 32:17** “The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.”

**Romans 8:6** “The mind of sinful man [ Or mind set on the flesh] is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;”

**Romans 3:10-18** “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

**2 Timothy 2:22** “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

**Phil 4:7** “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

**John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**Romans 13:1** “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”

**Colossians 3:15** “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

**Job 22:21** “Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.

**Romans 12:17-19** “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”

**John 14:25-27** “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**Galatians 5:22-23** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

**James 4:1** “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?”

**Isaiah 26:3** “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

**Romans 15:13** “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

**Proverbs 29:17** “Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.”

**Hebrews 12:11** “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

**Romans 8:15-17** “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out “Abba Father”... we are children of God, and if children then heirs...if indeed we suffer with Him that we may also be glorified together”