

The Fruit of the Spirit Includes Peace  
(Galatians 5:22-23)

Introduction:

1. In Galatians 5 we learn that the Lord's people have certain responsibilities that relate to the Holy Spirit, including:
  - a. walking in the Spirit (vs.16)
  - b. being led by the Spirit (vs.18)
  - c. living in the Spirit (vs.25).
2. Those who fulfill these responsibilities will bear "*the fruit of the Spirit,*" the nine special characteristics listed in vs.22-23.
3. In our lesson we are making a timely study of a number of passages that relate to the third characteristic -- "peace."
4. Let us begin by giving . . .

Discussion:

- I. A DEFINITION OF "PEACE"
  - A. Peace: a state that is free from disturbance or turmoil; a condition in which harmony exists
  - B. In the Bible we read about:
    1. peace on a national level [between countries] (Acts 12:20)
    2. peace on an individual level [between men] (Ephesians 2:14-15)
    3. peace on a spiritual level [between God and men] (Ephesians 2:16-17).
  - C. While all of these are important, the "peace" included in the fruit of the Spirit is "a state of harmony between individuals."
- II. THE BIBLE TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO SEEK PEACE AND TO BE AT PEACE
  - A. See 2 Corinthians 13:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:13b; and 1 Peter 3:10-11.
  - B. The fact that this admonition is given so many times ought to impress us with its importance.
  - C. In addition to teaching us to seek peace and to be at peace, . . .
- III. THE BIBLE TEACHES US HOW TO HAVE PEACE
  - A. Things that destroy peace must be avoided, including:
    1. "sowing discord" (Proverbs 6:19b)
    2. "pride" (Proverbs 28:25a -- "*He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife*")
    3. certain "works of the flesh" [hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, heresies, and envyings] (Galatians 5:20-21)
    4. "respect of persons" (1 Corinthians 1:11-12; 3:3-4; 4:6).
  - B. We must practice those things that result in peace, including:
    1. putting forth the effort to live peaceably with others (Romans 12:18)
    2. following after things that promote peace (Romans 14:19)
    3. possessing wisdom from above (James 3:17-18)
    4. confessing faults (James 5:16a)
    5. forgiving faults (Colossians 3:13).

Conclusion:

1. Jesus said that peacemakers will receive a great blessing -- "*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God*" (Matthew 5:9).
2. Are you a peacemaker?