

Peace
(Galatians 5:22-23).

Introduction:

1. In Galatians 5:22-23, nine very special characteristics are listed.
2. Together, these characteristics make up *"the fruit of the Spirit."*
3. Christians are to develop these traits, and we are to continually grow in them.
4. This morning we are concentrating on the third characteristic -- *"peace."*
5. At the present time our world is suffering from a lack of peace.
6. When we consider the far-reaching effects of a lack of peace, we understand that peace is quite precious.

Discussion:

- I. LET US BEGIN BY DEFINING "PEACE"
 - A. Peace: a state of tranquility; harmony; freedom from disturbance or turmoil
 - B. The Bible speaks of peace:
 1. between countries (Acts 12:20)
 2. between men (Ephesians 2:14-15)
 3. between God and men (Ephesians 2:16-17).
 - C. The *"peace"* included in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) is "peace [harmony] between individuals."
- II. THE BIBLE TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO SEEK PEACE AND TO BE AT PEACE
 - A. See:
 1. 2 Corinthians 13:11
 2. Ephesians 4:3
 3. 1 Thessalonians 5:13b
 4. 1 Peter 3:10-11
 - B. The fact that similar instructions are given so many times ought to tell us something.
 - C. In addition to telling us to seek peace and to be at peace, . . .
- III. THE BIBLE TELLS US HOW TO HAVE PEACE
 - A. To have peace, certain things must be avoided.
 1. (Galatians 5:20-21) Some of the works of the flesh destroy peace, including hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, heresies, envyings.
 2. We must avoid "respect of persons" (1 Corinthians 1:11-12; 3:3-4; 4:6).
 3. We must avoid the "love of preeminence" (3 John 9-10).
 4. We must put away pride.
 - a. Pride will prevent a person like Diotrefes from admitting his mistakes.
 - b. When this occurs, true peace will not exist.
 - c. Pride will actually cause a person to blame others for his faults.
 - d. The correct way to treat pride is revealed in James 5:16.
 - B. Certain things must be done to have peace and maintain it.
 1. We must put forth effort to live peaceably with others (Romans 12:18).
 2. We must follow after the things which promote peace (Romans 14:19).
 3. We must possess the right kind of wisdom.
 - a. The wrong kind of wisdom is mentioned in James 3:14-16.
 - b. The right kind of wisdom is mentioned in James 3:17-18.

Conclusion:

1. God wants peace in His church (1 Corinthians 14:33).
2. Those who promote peace will be blessed (Matthew 5:9 -- *"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God"*).