

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

Introduction:

1. The fruit of the Spirit consists of the 9 special characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. As we study these characteristics we must remember that those who sow to the Spirit will reap everlasting life (Galatians 6:8).
3. The degree to which we bear the fruit of the Spirit is a good indication of whether we are sowing to the Spirit.
4. In our lesson we are studying the third characteristic: "peace."

Discussion:

I. LET US FIRST DEFINE "PEACE"

- A. Peace: a state of harmony or tranquility; a state that is free of disturbance or turmoil
- B. In the Scriptures we read about:
 1. peace between countries (Acts 12:20)
 2. peace between men, including Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:14-15)
 3. peace between God and men (Ephesians 2:16-18).
- C. The "*peace*" that is the third characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit is "peace [harmony] between individuals."

II. THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CHRISTIANS TO SEEK PEACE AND TO BE AT PEACE

- A. Consider the following passages:
 1. Ephesians 4:3
 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:13b
 3. 1 Peter 3:10-11.
- B. The fact that similar instructions were given to so many Christians living in different areas in the first century is significant.
- C. In addition to telling us to seek peace and to be at peace, . . .

III. THE SCRIPTURES TEACH US HOW TO HAVE PEACE

- A. To have peace we must avoid certain things, including:
 1. the works of the flesh that destroy peace such as hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, heresies, envyings (Galatians 5:19-21)
 2. "respect of persons" (1 Corinthians 1:11-12; 3:3-4; 4:6)
 3. the "love of preeminence" (3 John 9-10)
 4. pride.
 - a. Pride will prevent a person like Diotrefes from confessing his faults and repenting.
 - b. When this occurs, true peace will not exist.
 - c. To have peace, faults must be admitted and confessed (James 5:16).
- B. To have peace and maintain it we must fulfill our responsibilities, including:
 1. putting forth effort to live peaceably with others (Romans 12:18)
 2. following after the things that promote peace (Romans 14:19)
 3. possessing the right kind of wisdom.
 - a. Enemies of peace such as envy and strife are associated with the wrong kind of wisdom (James 3:14-16).
 - b. Peace, gentleness, and mercy are associated with the right kind of wisdom (James 3:17-18).

Conclusion:

1. God wants peace in His church (1 Corinthians 14:33).
2. Those who promote peace will be abundantly blessed.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 13:11
 - b. Matthew 5:9