

The Fruit of the Spirit

(Lesson 4)

Introduction:

1. "The fruit of the Spirit" consists of 9 characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. "Peace" is the third of these special characteristics.
 - a. Peace: a state of tranquility; freedom from disturbance or turmoil; harmony.
 - b. In the Bible we read about:
 - 1) peace between countries (Acts 12:20)
 - 2) peace between men (Ephesians 2:14-15)
 - 3) peace between God and men (Ephesians 2:16-17).
 - c. The "peace" included in the fruit of the Spirit is "peace [harmony] between individuals."

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO SEEK PEACE AND TO BE AT PEACE
 - A. 2 Corinthians 13:11
 - B. Ephesians 4:3
 - C. 1 Thessalonians 5:13b
 - D. 1 Peter 3:10-11
- II. THE BIBLE ALSO TEACHES CHRISTIANS HOW TO HAVE PEACE
 - A. Certain things must be avoided because they destroy peace, including:
 1. "sowing discord" (Proverbs 6:19b)
 2. "pride" (Proverbs 28:25a)
 3. the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)
 4. "respect of persons" (1 Corinthians 1:11-12; 3:3-4; 4:6)
 5. the "love of preeminence" (3 John 9-10).
 - B. Certain things must be done to have peace and to maintain it, including:
 1. living peaceably with others (Romans 12:18)
 2. following after the things that promote peace (Romans 14:19)
 3. possessing the right kind of wisdom (James 3:14-18)
 - a. The wrong kind of wisdom is mentioned in vs.14-16.
 - b. The right kind of wisdom is mentioned in vs.17-18.
 4. confessing faults (James 5:16a)
 5. forgiving faults (Luke 17:3-4; Colossians 3:13).

Conclusion:

1. God wants peace in His church (1 Corinthians 14:33).
2. Peacemakers will be blessed (Matthew 5:9).