

Peace

In the sixties the slogan was “peace not war”. But what did Jesus say?

Mat 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

- Jesus understood that His message would divide friends, family and neighbors into two groups; believers and non-believers. His word, the “sword of the Spirit” (*Eph 6:17*), would be the separating factor, thus causing a “spiritual” war between all people of all nations. But that was not what His desire was to do. His desire was and is to save every living soul, even if it meant through spiritual warfare.

Joh 3:17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

- The ultimate purpose of bringing a weapon to a fight is to make peace through strength since you can't go to war without a weapon to sway your enemy. He would only slay you. But the Christian is to be the one to make peace between God and man through the sword, the Bible.

Mat 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

- Peace according to Webster (© 1983): 1. freedom from war, 2. an agreement to end war, 3. law and order, 4. harmony; concord, 5. serenity, calm or quiet

1.) Peace: Freedom From War

- Freedom from war while existing in a state of confusion and lies cannot be possible. As long as Satan rules this world through sin our peace will not be understood until we cross into the next realm. In the meantime, as Paul told Timothy, we are to “war a good warfare” (*1 Tim 1:18*) which can only begin to be fought when we turn away from our former behavior.

1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Eph 2:1 And you *hath He quickened*, who **were** dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time **past** ye **walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (*Satan*), the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all **had** our conversation (*Gk.390- lives*) in **times past** in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and **were** by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

- We understand that the war we wage has nothing to do with the tools of weaponry that are enlisted to fight physical battles today. Those weapons are **temporal** and subject to change and decay.

2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal (not temporal, not subject to change and decay)*), but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down (*Gk.2507- to demolish*)

imaginations (*Gk.3053- reasoning*), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought (*Gk.3540- perception*) to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge (*Gk.1556- vindicate*) all disobedience(*Gk.3876- inattention*), when your obedience (*Gk.5218- submission*) is fulfilled.

- We aren't to use words of distraction to slander our opponents into submission either.

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, **they may be ashamed** that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

- If we can't use the truth against the enemies of Christ when we "contend for the faith" (*Jude 3*), we need to fall back and sharpen our swords because we know our enemies truly are the present day children of disobedience. And "having their minds seared with a hot iron (*Gk.2743- to render un-sensitive*)" (*1 Tim 4:2*) they have become "cauterized" between the ears and have lost their sensitivity to understand the truth. They use "lies in hypocrisy" (*1 Tim 4:2*) in order to **try** to shame us into submission to do evil but we cannot succumb to such a defeat. We are to know **no** surrender because of the peace that awaits all who endure.

Mat 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all for My name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

- It was prophesied that the "enemies of the cross of Christ" (*Php 3:17-18*), by Satan's design, would pursue us because of the defeat he suffered at the cross.

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman (*the Messianic community of the O. T.*), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed (*faithful Christians of the N. T.*), which keep the commandments of God (*love God, love your neighbor- Mat 22:37-40*), and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

- We have the evidence that Jesus is the fulfillment of O. T. prophesy concerning the coming of the Messiah. It's (*at least it should be*) written on our hearts (*2 Cor 3:3*). The "testimony (*evidence*) of Jesus is the spirit (*Gk.4151- vital principle*) of prophesy" (*Rev 19:10*). This is why Satan has set his sights on persecuting the bride of Christ. He can't allow for the truth to be known "**unto the uttermost part of the earth**" (*Act 1:8*) which is what the great commission promotes (*Mat 28:19-20*).

2.) Peace: Agreement To End War

- **Christians** are to be the first to extend the offer of peace. Not that we are to compromise or to give in to our enemy's demand to submit to his ways either.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- So how, ultimately, is peace possible? Through love.

Luk 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Rom 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation (Gk.505- sincere). Abhor (Gk.655- detest) that which is evil; cleave (Gk.2853- to glue, that is, to stick) to that which is good.

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

- We can't allow ourselves to give in to evil. To give place unto wrath doesn't mean we are to just step aside and allow sin to run amok. That would go against any reason to have our swords honed in the first place. It means we are to step aside and relinquish any right we **think** we might have to avenge ourselves, turn to God in humble submission to His will and allow for His vengeance to punish because His judgments are more just than ours ever could be. In the meantime, in order to bring about an atmosphere of peace, we need to take care to remember what Jesus said of His enemies while hanging on that cruel cross ("*Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do.*" - Lk 23:34). If He was so forgiving, as the seed of His sacrifice aren't we to be also? To heap coals of fire on the enemies head "*is a metaphor meaning we cause an enemy anguish...because our kindness makes him realize how unkindly he treated us*" (Brad Price), again, "that they may be ashamed" (1 Pet 3:16). We aren't to "fight fire with fire" because the only way to put out the fire of rebellion is to fight it with "the washing of water by the word" (Eph 5:26).

1Th 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all.

1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: 23 Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed *Himself* to Him that judgeth righteously:

1Pe 3:10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile (Gk.1388- to decoy; a trick): 11 Let him eschew (Gk.1578- shun) evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue (Gk.1377- pursue) it.

3.) Peace: Law And Order

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from **the law of sin and death**.

- Without a standard, a law to go by, things would become "every man for himself" and we understand that "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer 10:23).

Rom 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man ("*hidden man of the heart*" - 1 Pet 3:4): 23 But I see

another law in my members (*law of sin and death*), **warring against the law of my mind** (*law of the Spirit*), and bringing me into captivity to the **law of sin** which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **25** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God (*Spirit of life*); but with the flesh the law of sin (*law of sin and death*).

- Peace cannot be found in “self” or in the world. There’s no “self-help” remedy that will replace the peace that only **God** can give in **Christ Jesus**.

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that **in Me** ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- Inner peace has to come from being **in Christ**. As long as the **Tempter** is alive and well, there will always be conflict within when it comes to making morale decisions. If **Paul**, who was an apostle of **Christ**, went through such anguish and warring within, can we be any different? Since the beginning of time when **Adam** disobeyed **God** and ate “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”, even after **God** warned him of the consequences he would suffer (*Gen 2:17*), man has had that battle within. And as **Paul** stated in verse **25**, only **Jesus Christ our Lord**, through “the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among them which are sanctified” (*Act 20:32*), could deliver him from the body of this death (*v. 24*), namely, the constant struggle with the sin that **Paul** was faced with. And we are no different.

4.) Peace: Harmony & Concord

Php 2:1 If *there be* therefore any consolation (*Gk.3874- solace*) in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels (*Gk.4698- sympathy*) and mercies (*Gk.3628-pity*), **2** Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be **likeminded**, having the **same love**, *being of one accord*, of **one mind**.

- How many people do you know personally, that are all on the same page when it concerns any given decision in life? Sort of a rhetorical question, isn’t it? But the church is, as **Paul** wrote to the **Philippians**, to fulfill my joy. How? We are always to be in agreement when it comes to “rightly dividing the word of truth” (*2 Tim 2:15*), to be equally benevolent (*especially unto them who are of the household of faith- Gal 6:10*), (*no, we’re not all to agree on one model of automobile but...*) we **are** to be “on the same page” concerning our human nature (*which has a tendency to make us want to have our own way when it comes to temporal decisions*) and finally, our individual opinions are to match up or (*when they don’t pertain to scripture*) we are to respect each other without getting into a tizzy over things that won’t matter to a “hill of beans” in the end anyway.

5.) Peace: Serenity, Calm, Quiet

Mar 4:35 And the same day, when the even was come, Jesus saith unto His disciples, **Let us pass over unto the other side**. **36** And when they had sent away the multitude, they took Him even as He was in the ship. And there were also with Him other little ships. **37** And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. **38** And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? **39** And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still**. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And He said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?** 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?

- If only **at His word** when He said unto the sea, **Peace be still.** And the wind ceased then only **with His word** can peace silence the war between good and evil. Only with His word can we still the conflict within us when we put our focus on Jesus.

Luk 10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that He entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word. 40 But Martha was cumbered (*Gk.4049- distracted*) about (*Gk.4012- through*) much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, **Martha, Martha, thou art careful** (*Gk.3309- anxious*) and troubled (*Gk.5182- disturbed*) about many things: 42 **But one thing is needful** (*Gk.5532- required*): and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

- Oh "**Martha, Martha**"! Are we ever too busy to do what is required of us as Christians? What can be so important that could possibly keep us from listening to the words of Jesus our Lord? Can a certain favorite television show? What about certain things around the house that need our attention? Are we so busy with life's little duties that make us too busy to meet with the saints when we come together in fellowship and Bible study? Can family members keep us away? Huh?

Php 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the **peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Rom 15:33 Now the **God of peace** be with you all. Amen.

- Peace originated from God. We go to Him to find it. He gives it freely to us through His Son. But, we first have to obey His word in order to receive that "peace that passes (*Gk.5242- excels*) all understanding (*Gk.3563- meaning*)" to "keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (*Php 4:7*). "All meaning" gives the impression that it is above any human conception of what **real** peace truly is. Have you obtained that peace?

#1. Have you heard?

Eph 1:13 In Whom ye also *trusted*, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation:** in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

#2. Do you believe?

1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received** the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that **believe**.

#3. Have you repented?

Mar 2:17 ...**They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Are you growing?

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

*Charli Yana
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