



Shalom: God's Peace with Us

John 14:25-27

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you.

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Introduction

What is peace?

- Absence of war/violence?
- ???
- In the Bible the Hebrew word for peace is **shalom**.
 - (Greek *eirene*)
 - The word in both languages basically means the absence of violence, the brief interlude between wars.
 - But the Bible does something a lot more profound with this topic.
 - Peace isn't just the absence of violence. Peace is much more proactive.
 - Peace is ***

Peace with God

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

► Salvation!

► It's good news because it's God's invitation to peace

► Don't stop there. It's also an orientation

Peace with God

Philippians 4:9

- **Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.**
 - Don't grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30)
- Peace with God is a relational peace that resonates in our life.
 - Stillness rather than frenzy even in difficult situations
- True peace is only found in God's peace.
- This peace is a beginning to a new way of life. A new birth!

Peace with our self

- **Peace with God leads us into a new encounter with reality**
 - God is Creator, God is Lord
 - Who did God make use to be?
- **Sanctification: Romans 7 to Romans 8**
- **Participating with the Spirit's re-orientation in our lives.**
 - We begin to see as God sees, love as God loves, hope with God's hope, and that transforms how we live in this world in all sorts of ways.
 - **Fruit of the Spirit:** Galatians 5:22-23

Peace with our self



- Know yourself!

- Navigating our part in God's story

- Embracing hope and faith in the midst of crises

- Understanding our calling and gifts

- Navigating away from alternative narratives in this world

Peace for Others

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

- ▶ We who experience peace with God, who find identity in God and confidence in God’s work in our lives, extend this peace to others
- ▶ We can’t expect people to be full of peace on their own.

Peace for Others

2 Corinthians 13:11

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in **peace**. And the God of love and **peace** will be with you.”

➡ Peace is not an Expectation it is a Transformation

Peace for Others

- ▶ We have peace with others only through having peace with and through God.
- ▶ God calls us to live out this peace, seeking peace, making peace.
- ▶ Some people make it hard to find peace.
 - ▶ They crucified Jesus. What did he do?
 - ▶ The early Christians were martyred (like Stephen in Acts 7)
 - ▶ Passing the peace can be a very dramatic expression
 - ▶ Sometimes the way of peace is itself a resistance to the powers of this world.

Peace for Others

- ▶ We become peacemakers by living out the story of Christ in our context and expressing this story in manifold ways with and for others.
- ▶ Jesus healed, engaged, got in the mix of a complicated world

Peace for Others

- We **are** “peace with you” because the Spirit who gives us peace orients us in finding the way of peace.
- Peace is not passive nor is peace just the absence of conflict
- Making peace prioritizes God’s love and calling for all people


Conclusion

- ▶ **Where do you lack peace? What ways can you find to restore that?**
 - ▶ Sometimes that means entering into prayer and finding God's presence and renewal
 - ▶ Sometimes that means stopping certain behaviors or letting go assumptions.
 - ▶ Where is the place of peace that Jesus promises to you?
- ▶ **Where can you spread peace? What can you do?**
- ▶ **Love God, Love others**
 - ▶ The way of Christ is the way of peace

John 14:27

Jesus Says:

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”



Rather than conflict, we have peace. Rather than chaos, we have peace. Rather than frustration or anxiety or domination we have peace. This is not the peace of the world, but a deeper peace, a lasting peace, a thorough peace. It is not just the ceasing of violence and war, it is more, it is an entering into a rhythm with the Creator of all that is, and living in light of this rhythm.

This is truly, thoroughly, good news. This is the Gospel, in which we see not just a message about heaven but a message about all of reality, a re-integration into life with God that transforms our experience of this world.

It is this peace Jesus promises to us. Do we want to live in this peace?