

You Must Go To War to Find Peace

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Introduction: A citizen of the kingdom will pay attention when God describes Himself!

- A. We have already learned that in the kingdom our goal is to become like the king.
 - 1. Are you being conformed to His image? (**Rom 8:29**)
 - 2. Do you “know the Lord?” (**Heb 8:11-12**)
- B. God has chosen to often describe Himself as “the God of peace.”
 - 1. This is found six times in the New Testament. (**Rom 15:33; 16:20; 1 Cor 13:11; Phil 4:9; 1 Thess 5:23; Heb 13:20**)
 - 2. Consider how Jesus is described as “the Lord of peace.” What does He want for our lives? (**2 Thess 3:16**)

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

- 3. To be like God is to be a “child of God.” Remember how Jesus described the citizen of the kingdom? (**Mt 5:9**)
- C. The kingdom of God is characterized by peace! (**Isa 11:1-2, 6-10**)
 - 1. That statement may come as a surprise to you.
 - 2. This king and His kingdom will be very different from any kingdom that ever existed. Consider the prophecies and announcements surrounding His birth. (**Lk 1:79; 2:14**)
 - 2. Peace is the great work of all who have yielded to the reign of God.
 - 3. What does peace mean?

I. True peace begins with God.

- A. What is peace?
 - 1. εἰρήνη eirene □ AV - peace 89, one 1, rest 1, quietness 1; 92 □ 1) a state of national tranquillity 1a) exemption from the rage and havoc of war 2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous).
 - 2. Who we seek peace with will make all the difference in our service to God.
- B. There is only one way to have peace with God. (**Rom 5:1**)
 - 1. A living faith will lead us to this peace.
 - 2. Peace can only come through the blood of Jesus Christ. (**Col 1:20**)
 - 3. This peace with God will lead us into the one body with those we hated while in the world. (**Eph 2:14-15**)
- C. When we choose peace with God we will find ourselves at war with the world!
 - 1. We must always ask ourselves the question: “Whose peace do we want?” (**Jam 4:4-6**)
 - 2. We will even find the war coming within the church against those who wish to please men. (**Gal 1:10**)
 - 3. Some who cry for peace the loudest want peace with the world! (**Jer 6:14-15**)

II. We must fight for peace with the citizens of the kingdom

- A. The Lord makes it clear that finding peace with other Christians is not easy.

1. We must seek and pursue it. A casual profession is not enough. (**1 Pt 3:10-11**)
 2. As we flee sin we must pursue peace. (**2 Tim 2:22**)
 3. If we do not pursue peace we will not see the Lord. (**Heb 12:14**)
- B. Why is peace with our brethren difficult?
1. Because we tend to look out for our interests and not our brethren. (**Rom 15:1**)
 2. Because we stay too busy to be involved with “unpredictable” people.
 3. Because we do not have a love for the things of the Lord (which are the people of the Lord!)
 4. Because of the pressure of the world to accept their standards.
- C. We must keep learning how to be at peace with one another. (**Gal 5:22-23**)
1. I have a sermon called “Some Lessons that do not Stay Learned.” This is especially true of our relationship with each other.
 2. Our relationship with God depends on our seeking peace with one another. (**2 Cor 13:11**)
 3. One of the worst things that could happen to a church is for the membership to become overconfident and lazy. Satan will take advantage of this.
 4. What kind of kingdom has its followers fight each other?

III. How is peace found in the kingdom of God?

- A. We must preach the gospel of peace without compromise. (**Acts 10:36; Rom 10:15**)
1. Some will find peace while many will go to war against you! (**Mt 10:34-39**)
 2. Please remember where true peace comes. Without a biblical faith there will never be peace. (**Phil 3:18-19; 1 Cor 11:19**)
- B. In conversion Christ must come to reign with our hearts. (**Rom 14:17-21**)
1. We now only want that which is “acceptable to God.” Are you teachable?
 2. As we mature we put others above ourselves because we view our brethren as Christ does. (**1 Cor 8:11-13**)
 3. This is the calling of all that find salvation. (**Col 3:15**)
- C. Am I growing in my service to God?
1. Am I increasingly displaying the “mind of Christ?” (**Phil 2:1-5**)
 2. Do I view my life’s purpose as pursuing peace with my brethren? (**Eph 4:1-3**)
 3. Does the words of my mouth reflect a spiritual wisdom that builds peace with others? (**Rom 8:6**)
 4. Do you really want to be in the kingdom of God? There are some lions who would rather eat the lambs!
- D. We need men who will fight a war for peace!
1. Problems cannot be ignored. They will only grow. (**Heb 12:15**)
 2. Why is it easier to use Satan’s wisdom and call it God’s?

Conclusion: Am I really involved in seeking the peace of God? (**James 3:13-18**)

- A. Are you that approachable person that another could trust with their problems?
- B. Are you one who would defend “the faith” when others would water down the gospel to “please men?” (**Gal 1:10**)