

The Nature of Peace

In the 1960's those who predicted the future advantages of technology felt the biggest challenge to the future would be boredom.

- They believed that time-saving technologies would increase productivity, and they informed a US Senate subcommittee that by 1985 people would work about 22 hours a week, 27 weeks a year, and would retire at age 38.
- We now look at those numbers and laugh.

The average husband and wife unit is currently working 90 to 100 hours a week.

- Families are taking a heavy toll, not from boredom, but from the stresses of life that leave them exhausted!

How Do You Have Peace In The Middle Of Modern Life?

First, let's define "peace" according to the Bible, because most people don't!

- They define peace as "the absence of tension or conflict."
- That's why they are puzzled when the Arabs greet one another with "Salaam" and the Jews greet one another with "Shalom;" both meaning "peace," and then go right on fighting!

The ancient words for peace do not mean "the absence of tension or conflict," but rather, "**the tranquility of order.**"

- In other words, there may be chaos all around us, but a person with God's Spirit remains at peace because the Holy Spirit brings order to their life.

There are three applications of "peace" in the believer's life:

The first is **Peace With God.**

Disobedience always brings a feeling of disorder to your life.

- This is certainly true of the person who has never trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins.
- But it can also be true of the believer who is not obeying God in their person life.
- The way to have peace in your life is two-fold:
- First, exercise the faith God has given you (each person) to trust Jesus for your eternal life.
- Second, obey His commands—not just the big 10, but all that Jesus taught His followers to do and to be.

Romans 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

The 2nd application of peace in the believer's life is **Peace Of God.**

Difficulties can bring a feeling of disorder to your life, if you look at them with the wrong perspective.

So how should we look at times in life that are hard and sometimes seem unbearable?

Philippians 4:6-7 puts some light on the issue:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

First of all, Paul tells the believers at Philippi to look at things from God's perspective—

- understandably this may seem impossible at first, but it's really not when we consider the apostle's writing throughout the New Testament.
- Paul suffered much for the sake of presenting the Gospel to people who had no eternal hope.
- And he always looked at a bad situation as having purpose from God in order to further spread the good news about the Savior.
- When you walk with God, He helps you see things from a new perspective—His!

Difficult times should be addressed with prayers and petitions for God to intervein and cause things to work out for His glory. And don't forget the 'thanksgiving'.

- That is how we should deal with 'every situation' we face in order to experience real peace.

The 3rd application of peace is **Peace On Earth.**

Differences with others can also bring a feeling of disorder to your life.

Luke 2:14 *Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*

Peace on earth doesn't mean that there will not be conflict in the world.

- It means that in the midst of conflict in the world, the peace of God rests on the whom have His favor—those who are pleasing to Him because they have accepted His Son, Jesus.

Many have attempted to establish peace in our world—but without the Holy Spirit involved, it's not going to happen.

Matthew 5:9 says, *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God*

- The real peacemakers of the world are those who possess the Holy Spirit who brings lasting peace.

You and I can have peace on earth, in the midst of conflict and confusion, because the favor of God rests upon every believer.

As Christians, we've received peace with God in order for us to have the peace of God in a world that really knows nothing about peace on earth.