

peace - a state of tranquility or quiet; freedom from civil disturbance; mutual accord between differing Govts; freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts/emotions; harmony in personal relationships.

Merriam-Webster definition reminds us – different types of peace:

- (1) **World Peace/Community Peace.**
- (2) Peace w/ God
- (3) Peace w/ others
- (4) Peace w/ ourselves.

1) World Peace.

- a. “Miss Congeniality” – pageant – “really do want world peace”
- b. **Matt. 24** – Jesus leaving Temple – “**See these buildings? They will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another.**”
 - i. **Disciples:** what signs will signal your return & end of the world?
 - ii. **Matt. 24:4-7** – “⁴Jesus told them, “**Don’t let anyone mislead you, ⁵for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately.**
⁷Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world.”
 - **Not going to happen. Discord will escalate in the world.** Great Tribulation follows the signs Jesus said. And Jesus is right. Truth.
 - Jerusalem Temple was destroyed in **70 A.D.** Roman-Jewish war.

2) Peace with God.

- a. It’s **attainable**. It’s **desired** by God. It’s a **reflection** of our status: heir.
- b. **3 things** to know so you can have peace with God:
 - i. **We are made righteous through faith**, not actions/works. **Rom. 3:22**
NLT – “**We are made right with God by placing our faith in J.C.**”
 - 1. **Gal. 2:16** – “**know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.**”
 - 2. **Eph. 2:8** – “**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God**”
 - 3. **If nothing you do makes you right w/ God, nothing you do can make your wrong w/ God. Faith is #1.** Faith is what matters!

ii. **Peace is a gift we receive b/c of our relationship w/ Jesus.**

1. **“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” – Rom. 5:1**

a. **Peace is a gift of belief/faith – we don’t achieve peace b/c we’re perfect - we accept it b/c we know Jesus.**

i. Remember - **Grace is God’s gift, “not by works to that no one can boast” – Eph. 2:9**

ii. **Jesus: “my peace I give to you.” – John 14:27**

b. **Peace exists in/thru our faith in Jesus . . . He is our gate to heaven . . . He’s the way to God & way to peace.**

i. **“I am the way & the truth & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” – John 14:6**

ii. **“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.” – John 10:9**

iii. **Many Christian faiths, ok – follow Jesus. Many religions? no. Jesus is the way. Not Confucious. Muhammad. Buddhism. Not all paths lead to heaven.**

2. **When Jesus is Savior, you are at peace w/ God... been reconciled**

iii. **God wants us to have peace, not fear.**

1. **God is happy we accepted His love & grace; reconciled to Him**

2. **Reconcile:** 2 previously alienated parties come together in peace.

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” – Col. 1:19-20

3. **God’s desire is for us to have peace, not fear Him b/c we know – we understand – we are loved!**

“And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.” – 1 John 4:17-18

- B/c we’re made right thru Jesus, we can approach God w/ confidence & live every day at peace with Him . . . no Believer should fear facing God.

3) Peace with Others.

- a. Difficult times. Divided nation. Discord. Rudeness is common.
- b. "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

– **Romans 12:18**

- i. Do all we can to live in peace. Our part matters. Stop stirring the pot.
- ii. How do we do it? **Wisdom** in what we say – do - post.

- 1. **James 3:17** – "the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others."

- 2. **Colossians 3:15** – "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts"

- iii. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." – **Matt. 5:9**

- 1. **God's desire:** follow Jesus EX. **Jesus' desire:** be peaceful, loving. Bring people in, not divisive. Come together in love. Known!

- 2. **Paul** dealt w/ people who had opposing views. **Romans 14.**

- a. Vegetarians / eat anything. 1 day more holy than another.

- b. "Accept other believers who are weak in faith, & don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong." **14:1**

- c. We'll answer/give account to God. Do what believe right. So don't condemn others... look down ... treat w/ contempt.

- d. "Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat." –

- Rom. 14:20** – don't destroy withn for things that don't matter.

- e. Instead – "let us pursue what leads to peace and to mutual edification." – **Rom. 14:19**

- 3. "Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."- **Heb. 12:14**

- a. Our lives are examples ... witnesses ... for Jesus.

- b. Leave the table turning to Jesus.

4) Peace with Self.

- a. Thru the day, negative thoughts may come, but come for sure at night.

- b. We'll wonder about so much... will steal your sleep, and your peace.

- i. "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe." – **Psalms 4:8**

- ii. If the Devil was arrogant enough to tempt Jesus, he'll tempt us. "If"

- 1. Stop the noise. Stay attached to the vine. Say a scripture.

- c. Change the channel . . . it's a decision!
 - i. "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." – **Phil. 4:8**
 - ii. Why we are at peace w/ God is why we're at peace w/ self.
 - 1. Nothing will stop God's love for us.
 - iii. Get away from discord. Disconnect there, but not God.
 - 1. God didn't create evil. God gives us free will. Cut ties.

Contemporary English Version – Numbers 6:24-26:

"I pray that the LORD will bless and protect you, and that he will show you mercy and kindness. May the LORD be good to you and give you peace."