

Message Five
The Gospel of Peace

Scripture Reading: John 14:27; Rom. 15:33; Eph. 2:13-17; 4:3; 6:15; Col. 3:15

John 14:27	Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
Rom. 15:33	Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.
Eph. 2:13	But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.
Eph. 2:14	For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
Eph. 2:15	Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
Eph. 2:16	And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.
Eph. 2:17	And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near,
Eph. 4:3	Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
Eph. 6:15	And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
Col. 3:15	And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

I. The Triune God is a God of peace—Rom. 15:33; 2 Thes. 3:16; Gal. 5:22:

Rom. 15:33	Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.
2 Thes. 3:16	Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace continually in every way. The Lord be with you all.
Gal. 5:22	But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

A. The New Testament speaks about both the peace of God and the God of peace; the peace of God and the God of peace are actually one—Phil. 4:7; Heb. 13:20.

Phil. 4:7	And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
Heb. 13:20	Now the God of peace, He who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant.
Gal. 5:22	But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

B. The peace of God is the God of peace infused into us through our fellowship with Him—Rom. 16:20; Phil. 4:9; John 14:27; 16:33.

Rom. 16:20	Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
Phil. 4:9	The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.
John 14:27	Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
John 16:33	These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

II. Due to man's fall, among mankind there are many ordinances, customs, habits, and ways to live and worship, all of which have divided, scattered, and confused mankind; there are partitions between every nationality and race, and thus among the human race there is no peace, only enmity, discord, and war—Eph. 2:14-15; cf. Psa. 46:9; Isa. 2:4; 9:6-7; 11:6-9; Micah 4:3; Zech. 9:10.

Eph. 2:14	For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
Eph. 2:15	Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace.
Psa. 46:6	The nations rage; the kingdoms are moved. He utters His voice; the earth melts.
Isa. 2:4	And He will judge between the nations, And will decide matters for many peoples. And they will beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning knives; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, Nor will they learn war anymore.
Isa. 9:6	For a child is born to us, A son is given to us; And the government is upon His shoulder; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
Isa. 9:7	To the increase of His government And to His peace there is no end, Upon the throne of David And over His kingdom, To establish it And to uphold it In justice and righteousness From now to eternity. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts Will accomplish this.
Isa. 11:6	And the wolf will dwell with the lamb; And the leopard will lie down with the kid, And the calf and the young lion and the fating together; And a young boy will lead them about.
Isa. 11:7	The cow and the bear will graze; Their young will lie down together; And the lion will eat straw like the ox.
Isa. 11:8	The nursing child will play by the cobra's hole, And upon the viper's den The weaned child will stretch his hand.
Isa. 11:9	They will not harm nor destroy In all My holy mountain, For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah, As water covers the sea.
Micah 4:3	And He will judge between many peoples And will decide matters for numerous nations from afar. And they will beat their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning knives; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, Nor will they learn war anymore.

Zech. 9:10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem, And the battle bow will be cut off; And He will speak peace unto the nations, And His dominion will be from sea to sea And from the River unto the ends of the earth.

III. Because there can be no peace in the universe without Christ, the Peacemaker, we need Christ as our peace offering—Eph. 2:14-15; Col. 1:20; Lev. 3:1-11; 7:11-37:

Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace.

Col. 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross -- through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.

Lev. 3:1 And if his offering is a sacrifice of peace offerings, if he presents it from the herd, whether male or female, he shall present it without blemish before Jehovah.

Lev. 3:2 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood on and around the altar.

Lev. 3:3 And he shall present from the sacrifice of peace offerings an offering by fire to Jehovah. The fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,

Lev. 3:4 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins, and the appendage on the liver with the kidneys, he shall remove.

Lev. 3:5 And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt offering, which is on the wood that is on the fire; it is an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

Lev. 3:6 And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offerings to Jehovah is from the flock, he shall present it, male or female, without blemish.

Lev. 3:7 If he presents a lamb for his offering, then he shall present it before Jehovah.

Lev. 3:8 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it before the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.

Lev. 3:9 And he shall present from the sacrifice of peace offerings an offering by fire to Jehovah. Its fat, the entire fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone, and the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,

Lev. 3:10 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins, and the appendage on the liver with the kidneys, he shall remove.

Lev. 3:11 And the priest shall burn it on the altar; it is the food of the offering by fire to Jehovah.

Lev. 7:11 Now this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings that one shall present to Jehovah:

Lev. 7:12 If he presents it for a thanksgiving, then he shall present with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil and unleavened wafers anointed with oil and saturated cakes of fine flour mingled with oil.

Lev. 7:13 With cakes of leavened bread he shall present his offering with the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving.

Lev. 7:14 And from it he shall present one out of each offering as a heave offering to Jehovah; it shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offerings.

Lev. 7:15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten on the day of his offering; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.

Lev. 7:16 But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a freewill offering, it shall be eaten on the day that he presents his sacrifice, and on the next day what remains of it shall be eaten,

Lev. 7:17 But what remains of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burned with fire.

Lev. 7:18 And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings is eaten at all on the third day, it will not be accepted, neither will it be reckoned to the one who presents it; it will be an abomination, and the person who eats of it shall bear his own iniquity.

Lev. 7:19 And flesh that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten; it shall be burned with fire. And as for other flesh, anyone who is clean may eat such flesh.

Lev. 7:20 But the person who eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, with his uncleanness upon him, that person shall be cut off from his people.

Lev. 7:21 And when anyone touches any unclean thing, the uncleanness of man or an unclean beast or any unclean abomination, and eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, that person shall be cut off from his people.

Lev. 7:22 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev. 7:23 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, You shall not eat any fat of an ox or of a sheep or of a goat.

Lev. 7:24 And the fat of an animal that dies and the fat of an animal which is torn by beasts may be put to any other use, but you shall by no means eat it.

Lev. 7:25 For whoever eats the fat of a beast, from which someone presents an offering by fire to Jehovah, then the person who eats it shall be cut off from his people.

Lev. 7:26 And you shall not eat any blood, either of bird or of beast, in any of your dwelling places.

Lev. 7:27 Any person who eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people.

Lev. 7:28 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev. 7:29 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, He who presents the sacrifice of his peace offerings to Jehovah shall bring his offering to Jehovah out of the sacrifice of his peace offerings.

Lev. 7:30 His own hands shall bring Jehovah's offerings by fire; the fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before Jehovah.

Lev. 7:31 And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar; but the breast shall be for Aaron and for his sons.

Lev. 7:32 And the right thigh you shall give to the priest for a heave offering out of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.

- Lev. 7:33 The one among the sons of Aaron who presents the blood of the peace offerings and the fat shall have the right thigh as his portion.
- Lev. 7:34 For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons for a perpetual statute to be observed by the children of Israel.
- Lev. 7:35 This is the anointing portion of Aaron and the anointing portion of his sons, from Jehovah's offerings by fire, in the day when he presented them to serve Jehovah as priests,
- Lev. 7:36 Which Jehovah commanded to be given them from the children of Israel in the day that He anointed them. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout their generations.
- Lev. 7:37 This is the law of the burnt offering and of the meal offering and of the sin offering and of the trespass offering and of the filling of hands and of the sacrifice of peace offerings,

- A. As the fulfillment and the reality of the type of the peace offering, Christ is our peace; through Him and in Him we have peace with God and with one another— Eph. 2:14; Col. 3:15; 1 Thes. 5:13b.
 Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
 Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
 1Thes.5:13 And to regard them most highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.
- B. Apart from Christ we cannot have peace with God or with others; we can have such peace only through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ—Rom. 5:1; 12:18.
 Rom. 5:1 Therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Rom. 12:18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men.
- C. The peace offering is illustrated in Luke 15:23-24 by the fattened calf as a peaceful enjoyment between the receiving father, God, and the returning prodigal son, a sinner.
 Luke 15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,
 Luke 15:24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

IV. Christ is peace, Christ has made peace, and Christ came to announce peace as the gospel—Eph. 2:13-17:

- Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.
- Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
- Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
- Eph. 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.
- Eph. 2:17 And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near,

- A. Christ Himself is “our peace,” He who has made both the Jews and the Gentiles one—v. 14.
 Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
- B. On the cross Christ abolished the law of the commandments in ordinances and broke down the middle wall of partition, the enmity; in particular, He died to remove the partition between the Jews and the Gentiles—vv. 14-15:
 Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
 Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace.
1. Peace is possible only when everything contrary to God’s economy has been terminated—Col. 1:20; 2:14-15; 3:15.
 Col. 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross -- through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.
 Col. 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.
 Col. 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
 Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
2. Through the blood of Christ we have been brought near both to God and to God’s people—Eph. 2:13, 18-19.
 Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.
 Eph. 2:18 For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father.
 Eph. 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.
- C. In resurrection Christ came as the Spirit to preach peace as the gospel—v. 17:

Eph. 2:17 And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near,

1. The Christ who died as the Peacemaker, shedding His blood in order to reconcile us to God, came to us as the life-giving Spirit, even as the preaching Spirit, to preach the gospel of peace—Col. 1:20; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17a; John 20:19, 21, 26; 14:27; 16:33.

Col. 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross -- through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.

1 Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

2. Jonah is a type of Christ announcing the gospel of peace—Jonah 1:1; 3:2:

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of Jehovah came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying.

Jonah 3:2 Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city; and proclaim to it the proclamation that I will speak to you.

- a. In Hebrew the name Jonah means “dove”; this indicates that God wanted Jonah to go out like a dove to preach the gospel of peace—1:1.

- b. Jonah typifies Christ preaching the gospel of peace to the Gentiles—3:2; Matt. 12:41.

Matt. 12:41 Ninevite men will stand up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something more than Jonah is here.

V. The white horse in Revelation 6:2 is a symbol of the preaching of the gospel of peace, which is clean, pure, just, and approvable in the eyes of both man and God:

Rev. 6:2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

- A. On the cross the arrow was shot into the heart of the enemy, the battle was fought, and the victory was won; thus, the bow without an arrow is a declaration that the war is over and that the victory has been won for the constituting of the gospel of peace—Psa. 45:5; John 12:31; Heb. 2:14; Eph. 6:15.

Psa. 45:5 Your arrows are sharp: The peoples fall under You; The arrows are in the heart of the King's enemies.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

Heb. 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

Eph. 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace.

- B. Now the fighting is over, and the gospel of peace is being proclaimed in a peaceful way—Acts 10:36; Eph. 2:17; 6:15.

Acts 10:36 The word which He sent to the sons of Israel in announcing the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ (this One is Lord of all)

Eph. 2:17 And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near.

Eph. 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace.

VI. In the Body life and for the Body life, we need Christ as our peace—2:14; 4:3; Col. 3:15:

Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity.

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace.

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

- A. In the Body life we should keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace—Eph. 4:3:

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace.

1. Christ abolished on the cross all the differences among mankind due to ordinances, and in so doing, He made peace for His Body; this peace should bind all believers together and thus become the uniting bond of peace—2:15; 4:3.

Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace.

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

2. If we remain on the cross in our practice of the church life, the peace that Christ made on the cross will become the uniting bond in which we keep the oneness of the Spirit—Matt. 16:24; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:15; 4:3.

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Rom. 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

3. The uniting bars of the tabernacle signify the mingled spirit—the divine Spirit mingled with the regenerated human spirit—to become the uniting bond of peace; in our experience, the uniting bond of peace is the cooperation of our spirit with the uniting Spirit, the crossing Spirit—Exo. 26:26-29; Eph. 4:3.

Exo. 26:26 And you shall make bars of acacia wood, five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,

Exo. 26:27 And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle at the rear westward.

Exo. 26:28 And the middle bar shall pass through in the center of the boards from end to end.

Exo. 26:29 And you shall overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold as holders for the bars; and you shall overlay the bars with gold.

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace.

- B. For the Body life we need to allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate, to adjust, and to decide all things in our hearts in the relationships between the members of His Body—Col. 3:15:

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

1. We have been called to the peace of Christ in one Body—v. 15.

2. If we allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts, this peace will settle all the disputes among us; then we will have peace with God vertically and with the saints horizontally—1:20; 3:15.

Col. 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross -- through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

3. Through the arbitration of the peace of Christ, the friction between the members of the Body disappears, and the church life is preserved in oneness and sweetness—vv. 12-15; Rom. 12:4-5, 18; 14:19; Heb. 12:14.

Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;

Col. 3:13 Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive.

Col. 3:14 And over all these things put on love, which is the uniting bond of perfectness.

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Rom. 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom. 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom. 12:18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men.

Rom. 14:19 So then let us pursue the things of peace and the things for building up one another.

Heb. 12:14 Pursue peace with all men and sanctification, without which no one will see the Lord.

VII. In order to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to have our feet shod with the firm foundation, the establishing, of the gospel of peace—Eph. 6:11, 14-15:

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil.

Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Eph. 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace.

- A. Christ made peace for us, with both God and man, on the cross, and this peace has become our gospel—2:13-17.

Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.

Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,

Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,

Eph. 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Eph. 2:17 And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near,

- B. This gospel of peace has been established as a firm foundation with which our feet may be shod; being thus shod, we will have a firm footing so that we may stand to fight the spiritual warfare—6:11, 14-15.

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil.

Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Eph. 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace.

