

"Free for Peace"

John 14:25-27

Some observations about fruit:

Fruit only grows on branches
Fruit takes time to mature
Fruit requires harvest to be useful
Fruit is either devoured or planted

Jesus' amazing promise:

The source of peace: Holy Spirit
The quality of peace: Christ-like
The privilege of peace: Power

What kind of peace is most missing in my life?

Spiritual peace
Inward peace
Relational peace

Three destroyers of peace in our homes:

Physical violence
Verbal abuse
Deafening silence

Worldly actions that prevent peace in our homes:

Betrayal of commitments: Judas
Self-righteous reasoning: Religious leaders
Reactionary violence: Jesus' follower
Self-serving withdrawal: Peter

Christ-like actions that make peace possible:

He stayed
He healed
He listened
He sacrificed
He forgave

Which action of peace do I need the Spirit's power to take?

26 But the Counselor, 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.

Luke 22:47-54

47 While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

49 When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? 53 Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour-when darkness reigns."

54 Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance.
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Galatians 5:13-26

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is

love

joy

peace

patience

kindness

goodness

faithfulness

gentleness

self-control

Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

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SERMON NOTES

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