

# Peace

## Romans 12.17-21

Untold millions of dollars are spent annually in search of peace. Every year thousands of people seeking personal or family peace flock to professional counselors. Diplomats fly around the world pursuing peace between nations. Our court systems are jammed with cases arising from a breakdown of peace between individuals or corporations. Christians are not exempt from this turmoil of a sinful world. We, too, experience the anxiety of disquieting circumstances and the anguish of broken relationships.

But peace should be a hallmark of the godly person, first because it is a Godlike trait. Peace should be part of our character also because God has promised us his peace, because he has commanded us to let peace rule in our lives and relationships, and because peace is a fruit of the Spirit and therefore an evidence of his working in our lives.

A close look at Scripture reveals that peace is actually threefold. These are not three parallel but unrelated types of peace; rather, they are three different expressions of one peace – the peace that God gives. These different facets complement and reinforce one another, producing an overall character trait. Each aspect has unique characteristics that contribute in varying ways to the life of a man or woman of peace.

### Peace With God

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
Romans 5.1

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.*  
Colossians 1.21

*But the wicked are like the tossing sea,  
which cannot rest,  
whose waves cast up mire and mud.  
'There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked.'* Isaiah 57.20-21

### The Peace of God

*I have told you these things, so that in me **you may have peace**. In this world **you will have trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* John 16.33

Two passages of Scripture will prove most helpful to us in coming to him to find peace.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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.* Philippians 4.6-7

*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* 1 Peter 5.7-9

### Peace With Men

The importance of this aspect of peace is amply evident from major references to it in the New Testament.

Matthew 5.9; Romans 12.18; Romans 14.19; Colossians 3.15; Hebrews 12.14; 1 Peter 3.10-11

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary:*

*'If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.'*

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* Romans 12.17-21