

"The Fruit of Peace"

Galatians 5:22-23, John 14:25-27

Sermon Series Title: "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Sermon Series Summary: In Christ, we have received new hearts and new life. With this new life, God bears the Fruit of the Spirit. It's not something we do. It's something that God grows within us through His Spirit.

Setting: Starting from John 13, we have been in the last night before Jesus was crucified. In chapters 14-17, we hear Jesus give His final teaching and His high priestly prayer. We see Jesus talk about peace in our passage today.

Summary: Our world is marked by fear and anxiety. It is part of our sinful nature to feel this way. However, peace transcends our circumstances and this world by being unbreakable, rooted in eternity. This is made possible through Jesus who made peace with us and God through His blood.

Central Truth: *"We can have the peace of God, because we have peace with God through Christ."*

Sermon Points:

1. What Peace Is Not
2. What Peace Is
3. How We Get It

Opening Question

1. Have you ever encountered a peaceful person? Describe him/her.

(Answers may vary.)

Peace is the third fruit that is listed in Galatians 5. We will take a look at John 14 to see the root and heart of peace.

Read John 14:25-27

2. What does the peace of God look like?

Community Group Discussion Questions

(We just need to look at Jesus. He was homeless, betrayed, and mocked. The Jewish leadership slandered His ministry, and He was crucified. He never feared for His life and His well-being even when people wanted to kill Him or there were storms that endangered His life. Nothing ever shook Him. Even being face to face with the devil did not shake Him. With every trial, He looked at it with the eyes of faith and a confidence knowing that God was with and for Him.)

That's what the peace of Christ is. It's a peace that is not based on earthly treasures or circumstances. It's not a peace based on the self. It's a peace that transcends understanding and this world. It's a peace that is rooted in faith, trusting that God is with and for us.

The peace of God does not mean that we never experience fear and anxiety. There are things that are important to us. Some fear is good, and it keeps us alive. But when those emotions are tied to ultimate things, they usually show our faith in idols more than our faith in God.)

3. What is the opposite of peace? What is counterfeit peace?

(Fear, worry, and anxiety are opposites of peace. I would say that crippling fear and anxiety are more accurate, since fear and anxiety aren't bad in and of themselves. "Do not fear" is one of the most repeated commands for God's people regarding their enemies, future, evil, security, well-being, and suffering. Both Jesus and Paul call us not to be anxious.

Counterfeit peace is apathy, indifference, and lack of care. It is usually supported by escape and distraction. It may also be present when we experience temporary satisfaction. At least for me, I gain weight when I'm not at peace. I want some type of satisfaction, so I eat whatever to give me temporary pleasure.)

4. How do we receive this peace?

(In our passage, we see that this peace is what Christ leaves and gives. He had to die, be raised up, and ascend to give us this peace. This peace is our inheritance in Him. We see that this peace is not found inside of us, but it's a peace that is given from outside of us. It's the Holy Spirit that channels this peace into our hearts by bringing us to remember Christ.

Community Group Discussion Questions

This peace that transcends understanding and is rooted in eternity was not available for us because of our sin. God was not for us, but He was against us. There was a death beyond our death, suffering beyond our suffering. But Jesus took on that wrath, suffering, and death, so that we may receive His peace forevermore.

Final Thoughts: *The peace of God is rooted in eternity, in God Himself. He is never seen as anxious, fearful, and worried. He is omnipotently sovereign over every detail of this world and our lives. If this God is for us because of Jesus' death, then we are able to experience this eternal peace. We are able to have the peace of God, because we have peace with God through Jesus.*