

## Being at Peace with God and Self

### Maintaining a life of peace requires obedience to God's word.

(Psalm 119:165)

The Bible is God's instruction book for life. It is the "owner's manual" for the human soul. Our designer has designed us to have peace with him, and within ourselves, but we need to understand God's instructions on how to attain that peace—first by receiving Jesus sacrifice for our sin, then learning how to obey him.

- 1.) Why should you obey the commandments in the Bible?
- 2.) Can you maintain peace with God without obeying the Bible's commands?

### The Christian who lives a life of obedience to God and his word will have a life of personal peace regardless of his circumstances. A life of disobedience will put the Christian at odds with his Creator.

(Romans 6:1-2,10-13; Hebrews 10:26-31)

Though we obtain a right relationship to God through the obedience of Jesus death and resurrection, we must also imitate Jesus' obedience in our own lives. Jesus did not pay for our debt of sin so that we can keep on sinning, he paid it so we can be forgiven and be empowered to live a life of righteousness as he did.

- 1.) When we obey God we signify that we are already in a right relationship with him. When we disobey (sin), we signify our relationship is not right. What kind of relationship do you have with God right now?

### When we are at peace with God we can be at peace within ourselves knowing that we are living a life of obedience and that God holds nothing against us.

(Psalm 85:8; Isaiah 26:3; Galatians 5:22-25; Philippians 4:8-9; John 14:27)

We can have peace, an inner life without confusion, conflict, or division through a right relationship to Jesus Christ. It is that right relationship which makes inner peace possible. We cannot have one without the other. Being in a right relationship with God means that we live a life in obedience to him.

- 1.) Do you live a life of obedience to God, avoiding sin and doing good?

## God's Character & Man's Ethics, Study #6

# The Peace of God

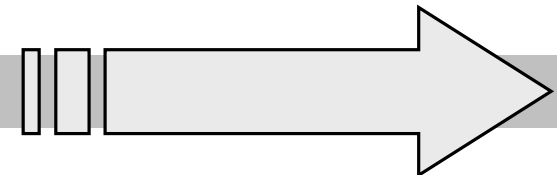
Do you have "peace?" Do you know what real peace is?

When people say they "have peace" about something it means nothing more than they "feel good" about it or there is an absence of emotional conflict. Some Christians refer to a "supernatural peace" as mentioned in the Bible in Philippians 4:7, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

From the Bible's point of view peace is first "peace with God" (Romans 5:1), meaning that the atoning working of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross has erased our enmity with God. Because of the death of Jesus for our sin, God is no longer in conflict with those who have received him. We are "at peace" with him when we receive the payment of sin he made on our behalf.

Biblical "peace" is also a lack of internal conflict, or perhaps we shall also call this *internal enmity* with ourselves about something. In both cases this kind of peace does not proceed or coincide with a decision to do something, rather it is a byproduct of an already-made decision. The first decision is a decision to be at peace with God by accepting his terms of peace—the lordship of his Son Jesus over our lives.

In this study we will look at two aspects of the *Peace of God*, and learn how we can have true and lasting peace.



## God: At Peace with Himself, but not Man

**Peace is a right relationship with oneself and with others that is void of confusion, conflict, or division. God is a God of Peace.**

(I Corinthians 14:33)

God is always at peace with himself. This means that he is never confused, conflicted, or divided within himself about his emotions, thoughts, or actions. He is always at peace with all he feels, thinks, and does, and is always in a right relationship to himself. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are never divided.

- 1.) Describe why you sometimes feel conflicted within yourself, or are sometimes without inner peace?

**God is not at peace with men who do not know or obey him. The Bible illustrates this by calling those who do not obey God, God's enemies.**

(Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:21)

Man is at conflict with God and separated from him because man prefers his own ways of sin instead a righteous life that God requires. Since man has rejected the basic requirements of right living that his Creator has given him, man is under God's wrath.

- 1.) God does not hate us, but neither are we his friends. We are his enemies because of our sin. How can people move from being an enemy to being a friend?

**God loves man and longs to be at peace with us, but his justice requires he punish our sin, thus we cannot be at peace with God without a solution to our sin problem.**

(John 3:16-20; Romans 3:23, 6:23a; I John 1:8)

Though we are not at peace with God, God still love us and wants to be at peace with us. However, he cannot excuse our sin anymore than a court should excuse a criminal. God must punish sin.

- 1.) Every person has sinned. There is no one who has not sinned. What kind of punishment do you think you deserve for your sin?
- 2.) What do you want God to do about your sin?

## Jesus: Peace Between God & Man

**Jesus Christ was always at peace with himself, and with his Father.**

(Luke 3:21-22; John 5:19-20, 10:30; Colossians 1:15,19; Philippians 2:6)

As the only Son of the Living God, Jesus is part of what we call the "Godhead." He has all of the attributes and nature of God. He is therefore fully at peace with God. He is without confusion, disorder, or division with his Father.

- 1.) Not everyone has peaceful relationships with others. We are often divided from one another because of our selfish desires (sin). How can we be at peace with others?

**Jesus came to make peace between God and man, making it possible for men to know God, obey God, and be at peace with him.**

(Romans 5:1-11)

Though God was not at peace with man, God still loved man and sent his Son to be a sacrifice, taking the punishment for our sins. Since our debt of sin has been paid by the Lord Jesus, we can now come to know God, obey him, and be acceptable in his sight.

- 1.) Jesus is a bridge between God and man. His righteous sacrifice can bring God and man together in peace. How can you move from being an enemy of God to being at peace with God?

**Jesus expressed God's love for man by willing dying on a cross for our sin. Jesus is therefore the solution to our sin problem, making peace with God possible.**

(John 3:16; Romans 5:1,6-11; I John 1:9)

Because God has poured out his wrath for sin upon Jesus instead of us, his justice—his requirement to punish sin—has been fully satisfied. Everyone who embraces Jesus Christ and the punishment he paid for us can have peace with God as God's free gift.

- 1.) Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior?
- 2.) Do you sense that your sin debt has been settled, or do you need to confess your sin to God?

