

YOU MUST GO TO WAR TO FIND PEACE

INTRODUCTION: God's children are peacemakers Matt 5:9

- A. In the kingdom our goal is to become like the king.
 - 1. Are you being conformed to His image? Rom 8:29
 - 2. Do you "know the Lord?" Heb 8:11-12
- B. Six times N. T. described God as "God of peace." Rom 15:33; 16:20; 2Cor 13:11; Phil 4:9; 1Thess 5:23; Heb 13:20
 - 1. Jesus is described as "the Lord of peace." What does He want for our lives? 2Thess 3:16
 - 2. To be like God is to be a "child of God." Note how Jesus described citizen of kingdom? Matt 5:9
- C. Kingdom of God characterized by peace! Isa 11:1-2, 6-10
 - 1. That statement may come as a surprise to you.
 - 2. Different from any that ever existed. Note prophecies and announcements of His birth. Lk 1:79; 2:14
- D. Peace is great work of all who have yielded to reign of God
- E. But what does peace mean?

DISCUSSION:

I. TRUE PEACE BEGINS WITH GOD.

- A. What is peace?
 - 1. **Thayer Definition:** 1) a state of national tranquillity 1a) exemption from the rage and havoc of war 2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, 4) of the Messiah's peace 4a) the way that leads to peace 5) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is 6) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death
 - 2. Who we seek peace with makes a difference in our service to God
- B. Only one way to have peace with God. Rom 5:1
 - 1. A living faith will lead us to this peace.
 - 2. Only comes through the blood of Jesus Col 1:20
 - 3. Peace with God leads into one body Eph 2:14-15
- C. Choosing peace with God brings war with the world!
 - 1. Must ask "Whose peace do we want?" Jas 4:4-6
 - 2. War even comes within the church against those who wish to please men. Gal 1:10
 - 3. Some who cry for peace the loudest simply want peace with the world! Jer 6:14-15

II. FIGHT FOR PEACE WITH CITIZENS OF KINGDOM

- A. Finding peace with other Christians is not easy.
 - 1. Seek & pursue it; casual profession not enough. 1Pet 3:10-11

- 2. As we flee sin we must pursue peace. 2Tim 2:22
- 3. Don't pursue peace won't see the Lord Heb 12:15
- B. Why is peace with our brethren so difficult?
 - 1. Look out for our interests & not brethren Rom 15:1
 - 2. Too busy to be involved with "unpredictable" people.
 - 3. Don't have love for things of Lord (people of Lord!)
 - 4. Because of pressure of world to accept standards.
- C. Must keep learning how to be at peace with one another. Gal 5:22-23
 - 1. In relationship with others, lessons don't stay learned
 - 2. Relationship with God depends on seeking peace with one another 2Cor 13:11
 - 3. One of worst things to happen to a church is for membership to become overconfident and lazy. Satan will take advantage of this.
 - 4. What kind of kingdom has followers fight each other

III. HOW IS PEACE FOUND IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

- A. Must preach the gospel of peace without compromise Acts 10:36; Rom 10:15
 - 1. Some find peace others go to war against you! Matt 10:34-39
 - 2. Remember where true peace comes. Without biblical faith never be peace. Phil 3:18-19; 1Cor 11:19
- B. Christ must reign in our hearts Rom 14:17-21
 - 1. Must want what is "acceptable to God." Are you teachable?
 - 2. As we mature we put others above self because we view our brethren as Christ does. 1Cor 8:11-13
 - 3. This is the calling of all that find salvation. Col 3:15
- C. By growing in my service to God?
 - 1. Am I displaying the "mind of Christ?" Phil 2:1-5
 - 2. Is my purpose pursuing peace with brethren Eph 4:1-3
 - 3. Does words of my mouth reflect a spiritual wisdom that builds peace with others? Rom 8:6
 - 4. Do I really want to be in the kingdom of God? There are lions who would rather eat the lambs!
- D. Need men (and women) who will fight a war for peace!
 - 1. Can't ignore problems. They only grow Heb 12:15
 - 2. Why is it easier to use Satan's wisdom & call it God's

CONCLUSION:

- A. Am I involved in seeking the peace of God? Jas 3:13-18
- B. Am I an approachable person someone could trust with their problems?
- C. Am I one who defends "the faith" when others water down the gospel to "please men?" Gal 1:10