



IS IT WELL WITH YOUR SOUL?

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Philippians 4:7

And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will **guard** your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Popular views about peace

- Peace is a **place**.
- Peace is a **feeling**.
- Peace is “Positive Thinking” devoid of Truth (Jeremiah 6:13-14, 8:11; Ezekiel 13:10. Truth is a necessary ingredient to authentic positivity).

The Peace Jesus gives

- Peace that **makes sense** in a deeply broken world: Recognizes the source of conflict – James 4:1-3 *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?*² *You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.*³ *You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*

The Big Story of the Bible

- 1) Creation
- 2) Fall
- 3) Redemption
- 4) Restoration

“Just as true joy cannot be gauged by the absence of unpleasant circumstances, so neither can peace be defined in terms of the cessation of violence, war, and strife. The Hebrew concept of *shalom* is much more positive than that, referring to a condition of wholeness and well-being that includes both a right relationship with God and loving harmony with one’s fellow human beings.”¹

- Peace that establishes a deep-seated **harmony** with God and others.

Romans 14:19

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

- Peace that doesn’t **sink** in the Storm.

Next Steps

- 1) Pursue peace by pursuing Jesus Christ. How? Obey what He says.
- 2) Am I known as a peacemaker?
- 3) Am I willing to absorb the hostility in order to end the cycle of retribution?

¹ T. George, *Galatians*, Vol. 30 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 402. Also, see “εἰρήνη, “peace,” is the universal quest of humanity, though it is defined differently in various philosophies and cultures. Among the Greeks the aim of life was ἀταραξία, “serenity,” “tranquility,” or “a quiet mind,” which was obtained via αὐτάρκεια or “self-sufficient independence” from all that caused trouble in life. Peace, therefore, was viewed largely in negative terms to mean “absence of pain in the body or trouble in the mind”—particularly among the Stoics, but also throughout Greek thought. Among Jews, however, peace is the term that epitomizes the perfection of relationships in whatever circumstance, and so signifies something quite positive. It means everything that makes for a person’s highest good and that promotes the best relationships. So, the Jewish greeting *Shalom* means not primarily an absence of opposition, difficulties, or pain, but personal wholeness and beneficial relationships...Peace, therefore, in the sense of personal wholeness and beneficial relationships, becomes the hallmark of a believer’s life—in the home (cf. 1 Cor 7:15), in the church (cf. 1 Cor 14:33; Eph 4:3), and in the world (cf. Rom 12:18). Thus Paul exhorts believers: “Let us make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification” (Rom 14:19).” R. N. Longenecker, *Galatians*, Vol. 41 (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1990), 261.