

FIRST PETER

Part 86

“Peace”

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What is something mankind has talked about for centuries yet has not really understood? Or what has almost everyone on earth sought after and never really found? What is more elusive than a mountain lion and more sought after than gold? The answer is...real peace!

Everyone has a definition of what they believe peace might be. Most everyone has visualized what their mind calls peace. But what is a concrete definition of peace and who can truly define it?

As believers, we must understand biblical peace. We must not only be able to define it, but we must also be able to live it out.

THE COMMANDS

I Peter 3:11

- Believers are to seek or “**strive** after” a certain kind of peace.
- They must also run after it or **pursue** this kind of peace with great **effort** and practice it often.

WHAT IS REAL BIBLICAL PEACE?

I Peter 2:11

- It is not...
 - something between **countries**.
 - determined by **certain** societies.
 - the absence of fighting and **war**.
 - when someone gets their “**way**.”
- It is...**designed by God and given by God!**
- It is only **found** in Jesus Christ. (*John 14:27*)
 - Peace **with** God at salvation
 - Peace of God by **means** of the indwelling Holy Spirit

- It is only known and **lived** out in a Spirit-filled believer's life. (*Galatians 5:22*)

PEACE DEFINED - A state of mind free from **fear**, worry and agitation, allowing harmony with Jesus Christ to exist.

- Notice! This peace is not determined by governments, societies or people, but by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

A LIFESTYLE OF PEACE

- The **product** of our faith (righteousness) is reproduced in others in a peaceful way. (*James 3:18*)
- We **shape** our reputation and legacy with a peaceful lifestyle. (*Philippians 4:6-7*)
- Our **emotions** are kept in check by biblical peace. (*Colossians 3:15*)
- We **share** the right "Good News" with others because we understand real peace. (*Ephesians 6:15*)

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Many professing believers today are practicing and proclaiming a “**false** peace.”
- If you know Jesus Christ personally, will you be involved in a true “peace **movement**”?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Why do so many believers emphasize societal peace and not biblical peace? Explain.
2. Are you known as a “peaceful” person? Who thinks that of you?
3. What fears or agitations continually pull you down? Explain.