

## Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Peace

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Scripture: **Romans 5:1**

Series: **The Fruit of the Spirit**

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### OVERVIEW

Most people are looking for peace, but they fail to find it. Perhaps it's because their conception of peace is too narrow. If we only view peace as the absence of conflict, then our quest for peace will remain elusive. True peace isn't merely the absence of enemies, but the presence of friends. Moreover, peace is the presence of harmony, wholeness, and unity. Such peace will give us freedom, but it must be cultivated – it doesn't come naturally. Too often, we invite negativity and disturbance into our life, which can choke out peace. From a biblical perspective, **peace is both freedom from disturbance and freedom in disturbance.**

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### CORROBORATING TEXTS

Ephesians 2:14-18; Romans 16:20; Romans 8:1-8; Philippians 4:4-7; Colossians 3:12-15; Psalm 119:165; John 16:33; Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14; Romans 14:19; Mark 4:35-41

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Romans 5:1, Paul said, “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Before you became a Christian, how did you look for peace in your life? What obstacles did you face in this pursuit? Since you became a Christian, how has your view of peace changed?
2. Why do many unbelievers think they're on neutral ground with God instead of being enemies of God? What are they missing? What are some lies they believe?
3. Pastor Joe said that “**peace is established by Christ.**” If we're talking to an unbeliever about this truth, what are some reasons we can give them that are biblically supported?
4. God's peace helps us have victory over our enemies. How has this truth played out in your own life? Who, or what, are your enemies? Can you name them? Are you experiencing victory over them? Why or why not?
5. Pastor Joe also said that “**peace is experienced by faith.**” Why do some Christians have peace, yet live as though they don't know it? Have you experienced this dilemma yourself? What are some things in your life that are choking out peace?
6. To have peace, we need to submit to God's law and His Word. Thus, we need to meditate on things that are above (Col. 3:1-2). Are you regularly setting your mind to peace? Are you experiencing the internal kind of peace described in this week's sermon? Why or why not?
7. Lastly, Pastor Joe said that “**peace is extended by the church.**” Moreover, that peace lovers make effective peace makers. But extending peace is hard, and it must be sought. What is required to extend peace to unbelievers? How are you extending peace in your own life?