

The Necessity and Source of Peace

John 16:25-33

March 30, 2014

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Introduction: Webster defines peace as: “A period of time in which there is no war or fighting, A time of tranquility, Freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions.” By this definition the world provides almost no peace. In fact the only time there has been anything even remotely resembling peace, it occurred because of raw, almost sovereign, power. The Roman’s imposed 200 years of peace on the world by killing or suppressing anyone who resisted it. In Asia a thousand years after Christ Genghis Khan established a universal peace. It was reported that if his subjects were not peaceful he would have them flogged. Coming forward....260 million people were murdered by dictators in the 20th century and another 50 million died in wars. And yet....all we seem to hear about in the news is peace....peace.....peace! World Peace....John Lennon wrote songs about it and bar patrons toast to it, but it is an urban myth. A pipe dream! The world speaks of how Christians have had their heads in the clouds for 2000 years waiting for Jesus and while they eagerly wait for something that has not come in 10,000 years of human history.

But...the desire for peace, like love and joy, is universal among men. Why? Because it is a part of the image of God that all men bear. God is at peace. Peace is God’s default condition. Just ask yourself....if you were able to alter any circumstance, vanquish any enemy and no one could ever oppose or thwart your desires, would you be at peace? The Father, Son and Spirit have lived together in perfect peace for all eternity. They created man and brought him into their circle, but Satan rebelled, then caused the fall and death of men. How did he do it? He separated humanity, through temptation and deceit, from the only source of peace in the universe...God Himself.

For us peace means having what we want all the time even if we have to get it from someone else. We have needs! If they are met we are led to believe that we will have peace.

Notice how God gave Adam everything he needed, but Satan entered with this pitch....it is the same one he uses today because it always works. “You are missing something that would make you happy and satisfied.” [the fruit in the garden] “You cannot be happy as long as this person is bothering you or making you look bad.” [Cain and Able].

James 4:1-4 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. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

World peace cannot coexist with sin and rebellion which will not end until God ends them personally Himself. Unlike The Roman and The Mongols who sought to bring peace, Jesus will totally do it. It will be done as Daniel so perfectly describes. Jesus will

Daniel 9:24 ²⁴ "... finish the transgression,put an end to sin, atone for iniquity, bring in everlasting righteousness, seal both vision and prophet, and anoint a most holy place.

Isaiah describes it in startling detail. The Sovereign of Creation will do what lesser kings could only attempt. Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of all lords.

Isaiah 9:6-7 ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

But alas...we must return to our day. To the 21st century where we now live! We are off to a good start in 13 years. Five million killed in Congo alone....one small country armed with rifles and knives. 200,000 in Sudan and 130,000 in Syria and these are just the ones that make the news.

During the previous century, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writing during the civil war said : "In despair I bowed my head...there is no peace on earth I said.....for hate is strong and mocks the song of Peace on Earth, Good Will to men."

My point in all this is simple. As Jesus prepared His followers to live for Him in this world, He instructed them not to look to this world for the deepest longings of their souls. The world offers counterfeits of God. It has always been a bait and switch. Satan promised Eve God's likeness knowing full well she would receive just the opposite and die. You do not need to fall for this scheme. Jesus is instructing you and pointing you to the true meaning and source of peace.

Remember Webster's definition of peace earlier? It is, he said, "**Freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions.**" It is hard wired into our natures to want this, but like all the other vestiges of the image of God in humankind....it is to be found **in God**, through Christ and not in this sin wrecked world. As long as we seek it where it can never, ever be found we will live in turmoil and anxiety. So let's continue eavesdropping as Jesus prepares His disciples to live in peace in a war torn world.

John 16:25-33 ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. ²⁶ "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. ²⁸ "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech. ³⁰ "Now we know that You know all things, and have no

need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² "Behold, an hour is coming, and has *already* come, for you to be scattered, each to his own *home*, and to leave Me alone; and *yet* I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ³³ "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Jesus reveals five things we need to embrace in order to have inner peace:

- Jesus Words do not have a hidden meaning [25]
- You have free access to the Father through Christ [26-30]
- It is not your faith that keeps you bound to God [31-32]
- Difficult circumstances are universal [33a]
- Personal and World Peace will be the doing of Christ [33b]

Jesus' Words do not have a hidden meaning [25]

I have said these things to you in figures of speech [25a]: Webster chimes in again with this definition: "A form of expression used to convey meaning or heighten the effect by comparing one thing with another." A figure of speech is not used to hide the meaning or to trick people. It is used to make the meaning clear and emphatic.

Matthew 13:34-35 ³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

The disciples themselves wondered why Jesus spoke so often using parables. Matthew records.

Matthew 13:10-15 ¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "' You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

Jesus was not trying to hide the meaning...NOT AT ALL! He was revealing the state of people's hearts. They were so smug and arrogant and certain that they knew everything that could be known about religion and God. The disciples on the other hand had some humility. They were willing to be taught. There was never a time when Jesus did not explain a parable when asked to do so.

Luke 8:9-11 ⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God....

.....And He goes on to explain the whole thing. Far from hiding the truth, the purpose of the parables was to make it crystal clear. [cf. Ps. 78:1-8]

The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but will tell you plainly about the Father [25b]: This time is just hours away. In fact, Jesus will go into the Garden to pray after He says these things, He will then be arrested, tried and murdered. The next time He speaks to them there will be no parables. What the Spirit writes in the epistles of the New Testament is without parables.

One of the most important things a believer can know is that he or she can understand what Jesus says about our natures, Himself, The Father and the Spirit, the condition of the world andthis is big in our day....The final outcome of all things. It is categorically not true that you can make the Bible say anything you want it to. That is only true if you think you know better than God what ought to be said. The fact that Jesus used some figures of speech does not grant license to change the entire meaning of what He said. Until you accept this simple reality you will always be squarely in the sights of the world and Satan who are both eager to say...."HAS GOD REALLY SAID???"

You have free access to the Father through Christ [26-28]

John 16:26-30 ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf [26]: That day is going to be after the Cross. "In My name" does not mean tacking that phrase onto every prayer. We usually do this, but God does not need to be reminded that you are in Christ. Christ has elevated us to His standing with the Father. Does a Father forget His Son? Your standing before The Father is the same as Christ's. I know....it is unbelievable and leaves us speechless....and it should!

Romans 8:15-17 ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

For the Father himself loves you [27a]: But you say, "I am sinful and my heart is always going astray. I can see how the Father loves Christ but how can He possibly love me?" This is the glory of God. It is the nature of God to love and His love explodes at the Cross.

Although perfectly righteous and just He is also overflowing with grace and mercy to you. He offers the only solution to your lost condition. His own sinless and spotless Son

will take your place in death....dying not for His sins but for yours. God can then continue to be just [the penalty has been paid in full] and merciful. His love found a way to reconcile men to Himself by sending His own Son into the world as a human payment for sin.

Colossians 1:21-22 ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in His body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God [27b]: Why do we love Jesus? If He is a great moral teacher and the founder of a religion who died half a world away 20 centuries ago there is no reason to love Him. In fact, I would submit that it is no more possible to love a Jesus like that than to love George Washington or Galileo. You might “love” what they say, but that is not what Jesus ever met by loving God. God is not religious. He is interested in your heart.

Matthew 15:7-9 ⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ⁸ "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father [28]: The disciples do have love for Christ... and it is love for the true Jesus, not one invented by cults and unbelievers. They know He is the Eternal Son of the Living God. He came from the throne room of the Father. He became a human baby in Mary's womb. He lived as the human man that He was, but without sin. He is now going to die and rise again and ascend to the right hand of the Father. Don't let these people who come to your door fool you when they say they believe in Jesus. They do not! Jesus told us who He is. Men do not get to define this. Saving faith must be belief in the true Christ and not the one men create.

Yes....Your love is imperfect because human love has been defaced by sin....but it is love. What you have for Christ is love! But love must be nurtured to flourish. It must be fanned into flame. A loved one must be pursued, cherished and treasured. Treating Jesus like the founder of a religion or a moral teacher to be placated is the surest way to lose your love for Him. The Ephesian church had perfect doctrine, but Jesus said..

Revelation 2:4-5 ⁴ ...I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!" [29]: The problem, as usual is not with Jesus' speaking but with our understanding. Jesus has plainly told them at least 5 times since they sat down at the last supper that He was “GOING TO RETURN TO THE FATHER.” When the scales come off the eyes of the soul everything begins to be clear. Understanding Christ is a work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has also been telling them this! It is still true today. Do not get discouraged at loved ones who do not see Him. Pray. And then when you get really tired of praying.... pray some more.

2 Corinthians 4:6 ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

“Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” [31]: I like the way they put this. They do not say “now we finally know what is going on.” They had no idea what was going on. They had no idea how Jesus was going to return to the Father...no concept of a resurrection that was to occur in three days. It seems obvious to us on this side, but really...how could they have possibly understood. So...they say....we know that you know all things.

This is a great confession. You should embrace it. You do not need to understand everything about the way God works or even who He is. It is enough to confess that Jesus knows what He is doing and why He is doing it. We love Christ and our trust is unconditional. Yes...we are afraid and yes we are ignorant, BUT Jesus is neither and He has loved us and given Himself to us.

Romans 8:31-32 ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

It is not your faith that keeps you bound to God [29-32]

Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. [31-32]: A lot of people think that faith will keep them safe. “If I just have faith...everything will turn out okay!” If you say that to me I will always ask you....”What will you do if things do not turn out okay?” Faith is not a tool it is a response. It is not something we use to please God or control the circumstances of our lives. It is trust. Confidence in Christ. Assurance that He is the Sovereign Son of the God of the Universe. That He has known us in our sin before the foundation of the world and love us anyway. It is the notion that we can confidently and with peace, give our physical body and our eternal soul into the care of this man.

Jesus tells them....your faith will not keep you doing what you should do. You and I have faith, but we still fail one another and God. Why is that? Because we are still broken sinners in a broken and sinful world. We are broken husbands trying to love broken wives and the other way around. Don't ever trust your faith. This is prosperity gospel religious-speak. Trust Jesus Christ who proved He loved you unconditionally at the Cross.

Difficult circumstances are Universal [33a]

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation [33]: You need to know and accept what Jesus says here or you will never, ever have peace. The prosperity gospel of our day gives the exact opposite of

peace. It gives turmoil and failure because it denies or redefines these very words of Christ. **“In this world you will have tribulation.”** Even when you believe and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Personal and World Peace will be the doing of Christ [33b]

But take heart; I have overcome the world.” [33b]: All the best news in the Bible follows on the heels of the bad news...or the truth. Here is no exception. Christ has defeated the world because Satan is a defeated enemy. His judgment was pronounced at the Cross and His sentence will begin at Christ return.

Today The Holy Spirit floods the heart of those who trust Him with blessed peace. It is not related to the circumstances of our life like it is for the world. It transcends those entirely. It is a gift from your Savior so that you can live in a fallen world with peace.

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

In the future the entire world...every nation and Satan Himself will organize to keep the creation which they have enslaved, from falling under the freedom of the God of Peace. The only way to have peace in the world is to destroy all enemies. No effort will be spared by the enemies of God to destroy Israel and all who believe in Christ. Christ Himself will be ragged at and mocked. David foresaw it....

Psalm 2:1-6 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

CONCLUSION: You and I need peace. It comes from God as a gift and NEVER EVER from your circumstances in this world. You need to know that what Jesus says is true and understandable. You need to go through the open door into the Father and ask for help. Stop trusting what you believe and trust the one you believe in! AND...know this. Tribulation, troubles, trials...these are universal to men. Jesus said you would have them. DO NOT let Satan play his games with you. When you face trials in this life God has not rejected you faith! It is proof that He is strengthening it for you.

James 1:2-4 ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

God grants peace right now in a troubled and viciously unpeaceful world while He promises to bring in an everlasting World Peace upon the earth when He returns. He actually took John into the future to witness it with His own eyes. John recorded what he saw in Revelation 19....

Revelation 19:11-16 ¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.