God's Plan for Peace

Philippians 4:1-7
5-28-2025

Introduction:

How can you have God's PEACE in your life?

I. FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR <u>PEACE WITH OTHERS</u> (V. 2 - 3)

A. RESOLVE (Settle) PERSONAL DIFFERENCES (<u>Restoration</u>) (v. 2)

B. RECONCILE (Solve) DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OTHERS (<u>Reconciliation</u>) (v. 3)

II. FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR <u>PEACE WITHIN YOURSELF</u> (V. 4 - 7)

A. <u>REJOICE</u> IN THE LORD (V. 4)

B. <u>RELY</u> ON THE LORD (V. 5-7)

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How can you have God's PEACE in your life?

I. FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR PEACE WITH _____ (V. 2 - 3)

A. _____ ***(Settle) PERSONAL DIFFERENCES (Restoration)*** (v. 2)

B. _____ ***(Solve) DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OTHERS (Reconciliation)*** (v. 3)

II. FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR PEACE WITHIN _____ (V. 4 - 7)

A. _____ ***IN THE LORD (V. 4)***

B. _____ ***ON THE LORD (V. 5-7)***

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Introduction: **"Therefore"** - This word connects this verse with the previous section. In light of our living in the future tense (or keeping our affections on things above - Col.3:1), God exhorts us to "stand firm in the Lord" (that is don't lose any ground upon which you stand and live).

How can you have God's PEACE in your life?
Answer: By following God's Plan for peace:

1. Follow God's Plan for **PEACE WITH <u>OTHERS</u>** (v.2-3)
2. Follow God's Plan for **PEACE WITHIN <u>YOURSELF</u>** (v.4-7)

I. FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR <u>PEACE WITH OTHERS</u> (V. 2 - 3)

The most important thing in the world is <u>relationships</u>.

We live in a society that is tearing apart meaningful relationships. --
1) unmarried people living together
2) rebellious children
3) uncaring parents
4) adultery
5) abortion
6) putting parents in convalescent homes, etc.

**We must constantly mend (repair) our relationships!

A. RESOLVE (Settle) PERSONAL DIFFERENCES (<u>Restoration</u>) (v. 2)

Euodias and Syntyche had been used by God in a tremendous way in the church. They both at one time labored together (v. 3). Both women were extremely capable, had a high degree of ability and gifts. Now, personal conflict had disrupted their relationship. Possibly it was jealousy and pride that caused a division. "Strife and vain glory" (cp. 2:3) probably entered their lives. God desires that we have unity! Jesus said: *"Keep . . . those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are"* (Jn. 17:11b).

"Euodias" means prosperous journey; **"Syntyche"** means pleasant acquaintance (Blair, p. 102). Now, with division in their relationship-- Euodias had become "odious" and Syntyche was "soon touchy"

There is no hint in this epistle that the dispute was doctrinal in character. The disunity no doubt was a bickering over some differences of opinion or method as to how to best present the gospel or deal with problems (for example).

The disagreement was evidently existing for a long time, and was publicly known or else Paul would not have addressed it publicly through a letter to the whole church.

A rule to live by:

personal sin	=	*personal confession*
private sin	=	*private confession*
public sin	=	*public confession*

By repeating the verb **"beseech"** before each name, Paul is treating both ladies on equal footing. He does not take sides, or blame one over another.

Differences must be worked out not held on to.

"Be of the same mind" - Being like minded (have the same attitudes and goals) is what a church needs for unity.

"In the Lord" - in spiritual matters we must all agree. In personal preferences we can give in to each other.

B. ***RECONCILE (Solve) DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OTHERS (<u>Reconciliation</u>)*** (v. 3)

"True yokefellow" = Synzygus (all other persons in this context are listed by name, so this man most likely is also).

"Help" - to take and bring together

"Those women" = Euodia and Syntyche

A third party is often needed when reconciliation is not arrived at.

Gal. 6:1-2 - "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Nothing will give you more peace and joy (and help you forget about your own problems) than for you to help someone else with theirs!

APPLI: <u>You</u> help restore; don't be quick to call someone else to do it.

Have a ministry of reconciliation! Just as we are responsible to reconcile men to God (II Cor. 5:18-20), we are to reconcile believers to each other! *"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God"* (Matt. 5:9). Every member is vital to a healthy Body (I Cor. 12).

II. FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR <u>PEACE WITHIN YOURSELF</u>
(V. 4 - 7)

A. <u>REJOICE</u> IN THE LORD (V. 4)

The most important relationship is between you and the Lord.

"Rejoice" - This word, adding to the theme of Philippians means to have a contented joy irrespectively of the circumstances.

"In the Lord" - We tend to look to gain inner joy and peace from job, possessions, other people, etc. If our inner contentment depends on anything else other than the Lord, it will be inconsistent.

"Always" = consistently and continually.

It's <u>not</u> always easy to rejoice! But it <u>is</u> always easy to rejoice <u>in the Lord</u>!

When one loses the joy of his salvation (Ps. 51), he--though he is rich--lives like a spiritual pauper.

Isaiah 26:3-4 - *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength"*
(Note: "Perfect peace" = lit. "peace, peace")

Habakkuk said that even when barrenness strikes the land, and famine brings disaster: *"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation"* (3:18)
"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." (Ps. 16:11).

B. RELY ON THE LORD (V. 5-7)

1. Your responsibility (v. 5-6)

a) Rely on the Lord patiently (v. 5)

One who receives the grace of God in his heart will have an inner change.

ILLUS: of men who (previous to salvation) were blunt, crude, sharp, harsh--now have flowing out of their life graciousness and mellowness. They restrain their tongue!

"Moderation" - gracious gentleness -referred to one who had a considerate, thoughtful attitude in legal relationships, which was prepared to soften up and not harshly demand its own rights to be upheld at all costs. It is the opposite of harshness and brutality. It was the character trait of a wise man who remains meek in the face of insults, the judge who is merciful in judgment, and the King who is kind in his rule. (DNTT, p. 256). It's the type of attitude that will patiently, humble put up with others who will treat you like garbage, while trusting God in spite of all of it.

Anger is often the cause for your lack of peace. Angry with God, wife, friends, children.

There are actually physical changes when you get mad! (nose flares, red face, ears, ulcers, etc.)

You don't have to "pay the person back." The Lord is at hand - He will repay! (cp.Heb. 10:37; Ja. 5:8-9).

b) Rely on the Lord prayerfully (v. 6)

Worrying can cause: "headaches, neck pains, ulcers, even back pains. Worry affects our thinking, our digestion, and even coordination." (Wiersbe, p. 113). It also causes insomnia. Trusting God beats taking sleeping pills.

God has a cure for worry (anxiety). And it is not prescription drugs, nor is it seeing a psychiatrist, nor checking into Bellevue Hospital!

It is faith, trust, reliance upon the Great Physician -- Christ!

Most of what we worry about never comes to pass.

"Take no thought for tomorrow . . ."

Do what you can about the problem and leave the rest with God!

"In everything" = prayer is not just for emergencies. It is for small problems before they grow into big ones.

a) **"Prayer"** - a worshipful asking
b) **"Supplication"** - an earnest asking
c) **"Thanksgiving"** - an appreciation for what God has done and will do (this involves faith).
d) **"Requests"** - specific praying.

Why do we worry (fear and become discouraged)?
Answer: Because we don't know how we will handle the problem at hand. You are taking upon yourself something God never intended! You are trying to deal with the problem by your own strength! You must give it to God!

The Hymn writer said:
"All your anxieties, all your care, bring to the mercy seat, leave it there. Never a burden He cannot bear, Never a friend like Jesus."

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Ps. 56:3).

"Nothing is too great for God's power; nothing is too small for His fatherly care" (Vincent, p. 134).

He who worries does not pray, and he who prays does not worry" (Blair, p. 108).

2. **God's <u>Reward</u>** (v. 7) - He will guard your heart and mind with incredible peace

Man's "peace treaties" (peace agreements) are often broken.

Martin Luther King Jr. and Henry Kissinger received the Nobel Peace prize. But can equal rights fighters or diplomats bring lasting peace? No! Only the Prince of peace can!

"The peace of God"
This genitive construction is not speaking of peace <u>with</u> God (justification) (Rom. 8:1) but the peace <u>of</u> God which comes after salvation.

<u>Inner rest</u> can only comes to you when you are absolutely sure that you are trusting in one who is <u>trustworthy</u>.

ILLUS: Contrast the differences of peace between stockholders and those who invest their $ in a bank.

"Which passeth understanding" - God's superior peace is beyond human comprehension. His peace rises above, surpassing everything which would clog, congest, confuse, or cloud our ability to think right.

"Keep" - to guard; God's peace <u>protects</u> us with <u>inner</u> protection.
His peace stands like military guards at the door of the believer's heart and mind to keep out invaders who would seek to make your life miserable.

ILLUS: Daniel's peace while in the lion's den(Dan. 6)

"Your hearts" = Paul uses this word to emphasize the emotions which are triggered by the thoughts.

"and minds" = The thought process itself.

"through Christ Jesus" = <u>In</u> Christ Jesus.

Someone has said: "KNOW Jesus KNOW peace; NO Jesus NO peace"

Conclusion: A "peace that passeth understanding" - we sing about it, talk about it, preach about it, but never seem to experience it.

Why? We neglect the Lord.
We do not empty out our dump truck of anxieties on the Lord!

Jn. 16:33 - *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*