

TEXT: Galatians 5:22

The \_\_\_\_\_ Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

- Peace is just \_\_\_\_\_ a rare fruit.
- We are not accustomed to its \_\_\_\_\_ or its presence.
- When we see it, it seems so \_\_\_\_\_ and out of place.
- But when we taste it we know that it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- And when we \_\_\_\_\_ it in our life together we realize that the fruit of the spirit that is peace is truly a gift from God because it doesn't grow naturally or "wild" in the soil of our world.

Peace \_\_\_\_\_:

- We tend to define peace as the \_\_\_\_\_ of something:
  - **Absence of \_\_\_\_\_.**
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  - **Absence of \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - **Absence of \_\_\_\_\_.**
- Consider why we do that:
  - Because we are not used to the alternative that peace is actually something positive and war, conflict, stress, fear, and noise are actually the absence of peace.
  - But peace is more than absence of negative elements.
  - It is the presences of something very good.
  - It may be more accurate to say that the negative elements are the absence of peace.

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- In the Hebrew, this present peace is known as shalom. It is something real and it involves relationships. We see it at the creation ... *Creation – "It was good and very good" – But in a corrupted world we don't recognize the "shalom of God" ...*
  - *Christ's mission is to restore that shalom ...*
  - completeness, soundness, welfare, peace
  - **being whole, intact; prosperity, peace: — ease, unaffectedness.**

Why is it \_\_\_\_\_ to cultivate peace?

- Our world and culture are fragmented:
  - In order to live with one another we require rules and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - "Good fences make good neighbors."
  - We \_\_\_\_\_ our lives into public and private worlds.
  - We divide our world into the \_\_\_\_\_ and the secular.
    - "There is no difference between the secular and the sacred."

## The Fruit of the Spirit is Peace

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- Our world and culture and polarized:
  - Our culture wants to force us to take extreme positions.
    - Red States vs. Blue States
    - Liberal vs. Conservative
    - There are absolutes, but these do not demand that we are polarized from others.
    - We are in the world though not of the world.
- Our world and culture are compartmentalized:
  - Our world and culture compartmentalizes life by setting up different expectations in different settings.
  - A compartmentalized life challenges our allegiances.
  - Strangely, we only know peace when we are so devoted to God that our allegiance is undivided.

### How to \_\_\_\_\_ Peace:

- Live Under the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ peace with one another.
- Practice \_\_\_\_\_ and Accountability.
- Remember your \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_.