

GOD'S PEACE, THE KEY TO BLESSING AND JOY 17/3/13

*Despite loud and repeated appeals, this world has no capacity, nor desire to develop true and lasting peace. Sustainable peace is a God given fruit of the Spirit and only those who accept and apply the truths of the bible, can enjoy its life changing blessing. Sadly, many Christians don't grasp what God's peace is, nor do they know how to find it. **PHI 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Peace is a state of existence, not an emotion nor a feeling: God's peace is beyond natural or rational thoughts or actions... it is only possible and acquired through scriptural obedience, by those who have been anointed with the Holy Spirit and continue to be led of it.*

The resolution of offences with others is essential... God offers no other alternative.

MAT 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. *The first step is to approach one on one with the person who has offended you... not to go to friends, not to gossip, not to use church leaders as a referee for you. **16** But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. If diplomacy fails, then help may be sought. **17** And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. No difference of opinion should ever go beyond this point... not if God's word is to be obeyed. & **20** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. God is always in the midst of those who are genuinely trying to settle their differences. This is far more important than what Peter had previously understood... so he asks Jesus an obvious question...*

*& **21** Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? **22** Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Peter wanted to know the limits to forgiveness for offences and sins... The answer was stunning, yet equal to what God offers us. On this basis we are obliged to offer the same peace of mind to others, that God offers us.*

Jesus reveals the powerful key (the only option), which leads to true peace of heart and mind... or failure.

MAT 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: **15** But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. *When you forgive someone, it should be reflected within your speech and the continuation of your actions. If you don't forgive... your own failings will poison your heart. Legalistic demands on others will cause you to move away from scriptural truths... true and lasting peace will escape you and compromise will fill their void. Jesus reveals this also...*

MAT 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. **24** Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. *Finding lesser faults in others, while being blind to the escalation of major scriptural failings in your own life... is the only fruit of rejecting God's method of reconciliation. The next verse reveals another powerful (painful) truth.*

When you sow division, you reap division... there is no lasting peace, just more scriptural compromises.

GAL 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. *Moses was a hero, but his rejection of God's words and the determination to do it his own way (insisting that Aaron be used); proved to be disastrous for many of those he was called to assist. Obedience maximises blessings.*

The great Corinthian offences were solved by the same simple approaches of forgiveness... brought peace.

1COR 6:7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? & **10** According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. *Paul told them to drop their divisions, even at personal expense... if needed. This results in the type of peace that lasts and is fruitful to everyone.*

In summary... some very helpful and peacemaking advice.

EPH 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: *Anger is normal, but resolve it!!*

ROM 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

COL 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. *Our walk in the Lord that brings lasting peace... is not about being right all the time, but it is about making things right, when required... all the time!!*