

# YOU MUST GO TO WAR TO FIND PEACE

INTRODUCTION: God's children are peacemakers Matt 5:9

- A. In the kingdom our goal is to become like the king.
  - 1. Are you being conformed to His image? Rom 8:29
  - 2. Do you "know the Lord?" Heb 8:11-12
- B. Six times in the N. T. God is described as "the God of peace."  
Rom 15:33; 16:20; 2Cor 13:11; Phil 4:9; 1Thess 5:23; Heb 13:20
  - 1. Jesus is described as "the Lord of peace." What does He want for our lives? 2Thess 3:16
  - 2. To be like God is to be a "child of God." Remember how Jesus described the citizen of the kingdom? Matt 5:9
- C. The kingdom of God is characterized by peace! Isa 11:1-2, 6-10
  - 1. That statement may come as a surprise to you.
  - 2. This king's kingdom different from any kingdom that ever existed. Note prophecies and announcements of His birth. Lk 1:79; 2:14
- D. Peace is the great work of all who have yielded to the reign of God.
- E. But what does peace mean?

DISCUSSION:

## I. TRUE PEACE BEGINS WITH GOD.

- A. What is peace?
  - 1. **Thayer Definition:** 1) a state of national tranquillity 1a) exemption from the rage and havoc of war 2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, 4) of the Messiah's peace 4a) the way that leads to peace 5) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is 6) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death
  - 2. Who we seek peace with makes a difference in our service to God
- B. There is only one way to have peace with God. Rom 5:1
  - 1. A living faith will lead us to this peace.
  - 2. Peace only comes through the blood of Jesus Col 1:20
  - 3. Peace with God leads us into the one body Eph 2:14-15
- C. Choosing peace with God brings war with the world!
  - 1. Must ask "Whose peace do we want?" Jas 4:4-6
  - 2. War even comes within the church against those who wish to please men. Gal 1:10
  - 3. Some who cry for peace the loudest simply want peace with the world! Jer 6:14-15

## II. MUST FIGHT FOR PEACE WITH THE CITIZENS OF KINGDOM

- A. Finding peace with other Christians is not easy.
  - 1. Seek & pursue it; casual profession not enough. 1Pet 3:10-11
  - 2. As we flee sin we must pursue peace. 2Tim 2:22
  - 3. If we do not pursue peace we will not see the Lord Heb 12:15

- B. Why is peace with our brethren so difficult?
  - 1. We look out for our interests and not our brethren Rom 15:1
  - 2. We stay too busy to be involved with "unpredictable" people.
  - 3. We don't have a love for things of Lord (people of the Lord!)
  - 4. Because of pressure of world to accept their standards.
- C. We must keep learning how to be at peace with one another. Gal 5:22-23
  - 1. In relationship with others, some lessons do not stay learned
  - 2. Our relationship with God depends on seeking peace with one another 2Cor 13:11
  - 3. One of the worst things that could happen to a church is for the membership to become overconfident and lazy. Satan will take advantage of this.
  - 4. What kind of kingdom has its followers fight each other?

## III. HOW IS PEACE FOUND IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

- A. Must preach the gospel of peace without compromise Acts 10:36; Rom 10:15
  - 1. Some will find peace while many will go to war against you! Matt 10:34-39
  - 2. Please remember where true peace comes. Without a biblical faith there will never be peace. Phil 3:18-19; 1Cor 11:19
- B. In conversion Christ must reign in our hearts Rom 14:17-21
  - 1. We must want that which is "acceptable to God." Are you teachable?
  - 2. As we mature we put others above ourselves because we view our brethren as Christ does. 1Cor 8:11-13
  - 3. This is the calling of all that find salvation. Col 3:15
- C. By growing in my service to God?
  - 1. Am I increasingly displaying the "mind of Christ?" Phil 2:1-5
  - 2. Is my purpose pursuing peace with brethren Eph 4:1-3
  - 3. Does the words of my mouth reflect a spiritual wisdom that builds peace with others? Rom 8:6
  - 4. Do you really want to be in the kingdom of God? There are some lions who would rather eat the lambs!
- D. We need men (and women) who will fight a war for peace!
  - 1. Problems cannot be ignored. They will only grow. Heb 12:15
  - 2. Why is it easier to use Satan's wisdom and call it God's?

CONCLUSION:

- A. Am I really involved in seeking the peace of God? James 3:13-18
- B. Are you an approachable person someone could trust with their problems?
- C. Are you one who would defend "the faith" when others would water down the gospel to "please men?" Gal 1:10

(Outline from Larry Rouse revised by JLH)