

Peace I Leave

Jesus offers peace to those who trust in Him.

JOHN 14:16-29



...you,
...aved
...at ye are
...another.
...him, Lord,
...answered him,
...follow me now;
...afterwards.
...Lord, why cannot
...all "lay down my life
...him, Wilt thou lay down
...ake? Verily, verily, I say unto
...shall not crow, till thou hast
...rice.
...OF MANY MANSIONS
...et 'not your heart be troubled: ye
...believe in God, believe also in me.
...in my Father's house are many man-
...sions: if *it were* not so, I would have told
...you. ¹⁷I go to prepare a place for you.
...¹⁸And if I go and prepare a place for you, "I
...will come again, and receive you unto my-
...self; that ¹⁹where I am, *there* ye may be also.
...²⁰And whither I go ye know, and the way
...ye know.
...JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND
...THE LIFE
...²¹Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know
...not whither thou goest; and how can we
...know the way?
...²²Jesus saith unto him, I am ²³the way,
...the truth, and the life: ²⁴no man cometh
...unto the Father, but by me.
...²⁵If ye had known me, ye should have
...known my Father also: and from henceforth
...ye know him, and have seen him.
...²⁶Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the

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How do you define peace? What's the difference between peace and a lack of conflict?

The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary became the catalyst that led to the outbreak of World War I. H. G. Wells dubbed it “The War to End All Wars.” It ended with the signing of an armistice agreement on November 11, 1918. The end of the war, though, did not usher in a lasting peace. What we really need is a peace that is only available through Jesus. He offers a peace that surpasses human understanding.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Perfect peace finds its ultimate expression in the relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—one God in three persons. During the Last Supper, Jesus's disciples were wrestling with the reality of His imminent departure from this world when He re-introduced them to the concept of the Trinity, though He did not use that term. The perfect harmony found within the Godhead provides a basis for and an example of believers' peace.

Philip asked Jesus to reveal the Father. Jesus gently rebuked His disciple and reminded Philip that He and the Father were one. Jesus's words and deeds were in complete agreement with the Father. The Son and the Father experience no separation in essence, purpose, or being. Even the disciples' prayers should be directed toward the Father but offered in Jesus's name. God's answers to prayer glorified Himself in the Son.

Later, speaking about the Holy Spirit, Jesus assured the group He would send a Comforter who would be like Himself. The Spirit had been with believers and would reside within them. Jesus referred to the third person of the Trinity as the Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ to believers.

When Jesus departed the world, His disciples would not be alone but would experience the Spirit's presence forever. The concepts Jesus taught were difficult for them to understand, but the Spirit would make everything clear. The primary way He reveals truth is through God's Word. The Spirit inspired biblical writers and illuminates Scriptures as believers read them today.

Although the disciples were troubled and confused, Jesus offered them perfect peace. His peace was different than what the world could give them. We can be at peace regardless of what the world might throw at us.

JOHN 14:16-29

16 “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Counselor** ^A to be with you forever. **17** He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he **remains** ^B with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you as **orphans**; ^C I am coming to you. **19** In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. **20 On that day** ^D you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. **21** The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.” **22 Judas (not Iscariot)** ^E said to him, “Lord, how is it you’re going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” **23** Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him**. ^F **24** The one who doesn’t love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. **25** I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. **26** But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you. **27** Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful. **28** You have heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because **the Father is greater than I**. ^G **29** I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe.”

Key Words

- A. The Greek word *parakletos* means “one who comes alongside.”
- B. Jesus continues His work among His followers through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit fully exists in Jesus (Colossians 2:9).
- C. Though He was leaving, Jesus was not abandoning His people.
- D. Old Testament prophets regularly used this phrase to introduce end-time revelation.
- E. Refers to Judas the son of James (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13). Some suggest he was also called Thaddaeus (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18).
- F. Recalls God’s presence among His people in the tabernacle and, later, the temple. At Pentecost, the Spirit indwelt believers (Acts 2). While God dwelt with humans on earth, they would one day dwell with Him in heaven (Revelation 21:3).
- G. Not a denial of Jesus’s deity. Instead, Jesus acknowledged that He voluntarily submitted to the Father’s plan for salvation (John 1:1-5,14).

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. The Counselor

(John 14:16-21)

Believers have peace knowing that the Holy Spirit is with them.

How do believers know that the Holy Spirit lives within them?

How does the resurrection of Jesus serve as proof of the relationship between Jesus and the Father?

2. The Teacher

(John 14:22-26)

Believers can understand God's truths and act on them.

How does understanding a truth move a person to act on that truth? Why do some people struggle with obeying God's Word?

3. The Peace

(John 14:27-29)

Believers can demonstrate their love for God by obedience to Him.

How is the peace Jesus offered different from the peace offered by the world?

How can a person demonstrate love for Jesus today?

APPLY THE TEXT

As a group, identify people who are currently experiencing significant difficulties.

What can the group do to help offer comfort and support to them in a helpful and affirming way?

How can the words Jesus spoke in these verses be used to bring comfort?

KEY DOCTRINE: God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit's presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. (See Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14.)

BIBLE SKILL: Compare passages to gain a clear understanding.

Compare John 14:27 to Matthew 10:34-39. How do you reconcile these statements? Reflect on how loving Jesus relates to receiving Jesus's peace (John 14:27) and the conflict believers may experience with unbelievers. Write a prayer expressing your love for Christ and asking Him to manifest His peace in your life.

TALK IT OUT

Focus on John 14:27. When people talk about “world peace,” what do they usually mean?

Jesus promised His disciples He would give them His peace. It’s one thing to say, “I’ll leave you in peace.” That can simply mean, “I won’t bother you anymore.” But to say “My peace I give to you” takes it to another level. Jesus would give His disciples a peace that was different from anything the world has to offer.

What is different about the peace Jesus gives? What ways do people try to find peace apart from Jesus?

Peace is more than the absence of conflict. The peace Jesus gives is His presence. Though He would be going to the Father, Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would remain with them. We don’t have to be troubled or fearful, because He has given us the Holy Spirit.

Share a time when you experienced the peace of Christ.

Write this verse on a sticky note and stick it to your TV. As you are watching TV this week, use every commercial break to think about the difference between the world’s peace and God’s peace.

Prayer Requests

DAILY EXPLORATION

Day 1: John 14:16-18

Underline the words “with you” and “in you.”

Jesus promised to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to them. He had no doubt about the Father’s response. The phrase “he will give” translates a declaration without equivocation. The disciples could have complete confidence in the Father’s affirmative response. The word *another* means another of the same kind. Jesus was saying, “He will be exactly like me.” The word *Counselor* referred to one who is called alongside another. This One who would stand alongside the disciples would “be with you (plural) forever.” None of the disciples would be excluded from the comforting and strengthening presence of the Holy Spirit who would never leave them. Jesus assured the disciples that the Spirit would be with them forever. They could take comfort in Jesus’s promise that the Spirit would never leave them.

People who trust Christ “know” the Holy Spirit (v. 17). The pronoun *you* specifically indicated the disciples but also included everyone who would believe in Jesus. Jesus promised the Spirit “remains with you.” While Jesus was returning to heaven, the Spirit would stay. Jesus also promised the Spirit “will be in you.” In salvation, the Holy Spirit regenerates the human spirit and lives within the believer’s spirit (Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 3:18).

Based on these verses, how can you know that the Holy Spirit lives in you?

Day 2: John 14:19-21

Identify the evidence of love for Jesus in verse 21.

Jesus knew He was hours from His crucifixion. When He said, “but you will see me,” He was referring to His post-resurrection appearances (see 1 Corinthians 15:5-8). His promise, “Because I live, you will live too,” assures us death does not have the final word.” Death’s victory and sting were obliterated at the empty tomb (1 Corinthians 15:55).

Another promise Jesus made here was that the resurrection would verify He is in the Father, His disciples are in Him, and He is in them. Jesus previously said He was in the Father and the Father was in Him (John 14:10,11). He was saying that not even death could break the union He had with His disciples, a union not unlike what He enjoyed with the Father. Jesus then returned to an earlier theme, that of loving Him and keeping His commands (see 14:15). His followers do not keep His commands to earn His love but because they already love Him.

How does the resurrection of Jesus serve as proof of the relationship between Jesus and the Father?

Day 3: John 14:22-26

Pay attention to how the Holy Spirit works in believers' lives.

Some have identified Judas (not Iscariot) as possibly being Thaddaeus (Matthew 10:3). Regardless, his question revealed he still believed Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom. Jews of the day were expecting a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression and reestablish Israel politically and militarily as it had been in the days of King David. How could Jesus do that without revealing Himself to everyone? Jesus responded to Judas's question by teaching that His kingdom would consist of those who love Him and keep His word. Both Jesus and the Father will make their home with the believer. Jesus was talking about the Father and the Son being present with the believer in the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would continue to teach and remind them of what Jesus had said. Significantly, the word you in verse 26 is singular. Jesus was saying that the Holy Spirit would work individually in the life of each disciple.

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus had explained that the Father had sent Him to do the Father's will and to teach His words (John 6:38-40; 7:16; 12:44-49). At this point, Jesus explained the Father would be sending the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus. Jesus had come representing the Father on the earth; the Spirit would be coming and representing Jesus on the earth. Jesus would later state He was sending His disciples, which meant they would be His representatives in the world (20:21). Jesus was both a sender and one who had been sent.

How should you live differently because of the Spirit's presence and work in your life?

Day 4: John 14:27

Note the connection between the promise and the command.

As He did in verse 26, Jesus again used the singular form of the pronoun *you*. In doing so, He promised His disciples they would each experience a sense of peace unlike anything the world could offer. The world often defines peace as the absence of conflict. This, though, was not what Jesus was promising. Jesus told His disciples they would be facing persecution, hatred, threats of death, and even martyrdom (Matthew 24:9; Luke 21:12; John 15:20; 16:2). The peace Jesus promised did not mean the disciples would not face conflicts or challenges.

The peace Jesus was promising would abide in each disciple's heart, meaning the seat of each person's emotions. The disciples would thus have an inner calmness, even when experiencing threats and adversity. The disciples' troubled hearts would be calmed by Jesus's promise of the Holy Spirit and His indwelling.

What causes your heart to be troubled? What's the difference between the peace Jesus offers you and the peace offered by the world?

Day 5: John 14:28-29

Notice Jesus's desire to strengthen His disciples' faith.

Jesus stated that the disciples should have rejoiced because He was going to the Father. Their lack of doing so indicated they were more concerned about their own loss because He was leaving, that is, dying, than they were with what Jesus would accomplish by doing so. Instead of mourning their loss, those who loved Him would be happy He was rejoining the Father in heaven.

In saying "the Father is greater than I," Jesus was not contradicting what He had said during His ministry, that He is equal with God (John 5:17-18; 10:30; 14:9). Rather, He was highlighting the submissive status He assumed while on earth.

Again, wanting to remove the disciples' feelings of insecurity and uncertainty, Jesus explained that His words were intended to help strengthen their faith in the future. More than once, Jesus spoke of future events, knowing that when they were fulfilled, the disciples would, in light of then-current happenings, remember what He had said and recognize the significance of what He had said (2:19-22; 16:1-4).

Jesus's words in verse 29 spotlighted His concern for the disciples' faith. Jesus wanted to make sure they had peace in the moment and that, as they faced challenges in the future, their strong faith would continue to give them that sense of abiding peace.

How can you demonstrate your faith in Jesus today?

APPLY THE TEXT

Jesus linked loving Him with keeping His commandments. Are there areas where you sense you are falling short of obeying what Jesus taught? What actions can you take to help you follow His teachings more closely?

