

## PEACE, THE WORLD'S OR CHRIST'S?

**John 14:15-31 (v.27)**

**Introduction:** "Oh for some peace and quiet..." Everyone at one time or other cries out for peace - war among nations, in the cities, living in an anxiety ridden time of noise, pollution, fear, unrest, pressure, competition, antagonism and home pressures. Sadly at home there is often no peace either. Where can one find peace?

### I. THE WORLD OFFERS WAYS OF OBTAINING PEACE

1. The world offers medications and alcohol.
  - Tranquillizers and drugs to blank the mind out.
  - Alcohol to drink one's way into nothingness.
2. The world offers advertisements of products.
  - Change hair color to feel different.
  - Spray or apply perfumes to smell acceptable to others.
  - Breath mints so one's breath won't offend others.
  - Clothing and shoe styles to be "in" others.
3. The world offers peace - the peace of escape, the peace of avoiding trouble - the peace which comes by refusing to face and accept things.
  - Those who promote the things of the world that will bring "peace" are hurting on the inside but are presenting to the world the picture of coolness, calmness and control, their own lives in a turmoil, while on the outside appearing calm and at peace, but inside a mess.
4. Anything the world offers as a way to have "peace" is false and only temporary.

### II. JESUS OFFERS PEACE

1. The peace Jesus offers is the peace of conquest, peace which nothing in life can ever take away, peace which no sorrow, danger or suffering can make less. The peace which is independent of any outward circumstance.
2. Jesus said, *"...Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you."*
  - On the night known as "The Lord's Supper Night" Peter was told he would deny Jesus, Judas went out to betray Jesus, Jesus prayed in the garden, Judas and the soldiers came, took Jesus prisoner, a mock trial, beaten, scourged and then crucified, the disciples had deserted Him and all this happening in less than 24 hours after Jesus had said, *"...Peace I leave with you."*
  - What kind of "peace" did Jesus mean?
    - Was it not that in the midst of all that happens, the disappointments, fears, persecutions, uncertainties, weariness, despairs there would be "peace?"
3. In our century, amidst the noise of wars, changes, terrors, the strains and tensions of living with all the technological discoveries and personal tragedies, there come Jesus' words,  
*"...I will give you peace..."*

4. To some, however, peace means simply the absence of conflict, to others it means to maintain the status-quo, to even others it is material security, rest and comfort, a peace which is a warm feeling with not being involved, no problems, no pressures, a fool's paradise.
  - Worldly peace is hollow - Jesus' peace is sincere.
  - Worldly peace is superficial - Jesus' peace is substantial.
  - Worldly peace is temporary - Jesus' peace abides forever.
5. Jesus said His peace was different from the world's.
  - His peace is not disengagement - it is not the capacity to ignore reality - it is not a dreamland - it is not simply psychological adjustment.
  - His peace is more than anything else spiritual prosperity - it is wholeness - it is growing and becoming - it is a peace of direction and purpose.
  - Any peace but this is but an artificial peace.

### III. HOW DOES ONE GET THE PEACE THAT JESUS OFFERS?

1. "*...My peace I give...*"
  - Jesus' peace is connected with Him. It is not dependent on circumstances, it is not just a new way of looking at things, it is not a philosophy nor a program nor a discipline.
  - It is a peace of RELATIONSHIP - a personal relationship with Jesus.
2. Obedience is involved as one of the fundamental requirements for the peace and spiritual prosperity that Jesus offers.
  - One must get his/her loyalties straightened out, dealing honestly with him/herself:
    - "Whom shall I serve? Myself or Jesus?"
  - Obedience is a hard word and it sticks in one's throat and does not fit comfortably in one's vocabulary or concerns.
  - Often attempts to produce the peace that Jesus gives are tried by other means.
    - Prayer - Bible study - Discipline - Church work
    - Apart from obedience, all are but artificial, as one tries to not give to Jesus OBEDIENCE.
3. Obedience to Jesus affects areas of one's life where he/she wants to be in control.
  - Possessions - Money - Time - Career -
  - Obedience to Jesus forces one to choose between commitment or non-commitment, devotion or non-devotion.
4. Obedience to Jesus affects one's relationship to others.
  - Jesus commands believers to love one another.
    - Therefore to be obedient to Jesus is to allow Jesus to love through you.
    - However, one must choose between relationships which are most comfortable, will it be with other Christians, with next-door non-Christian, with the elderly, the sick.
    - To obey Jesus is sometimes difficult, costly and painful.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, if you want the peace that Jesus offers, there must be obedience to Him.
2. The world offers a false, temporary peace, which will only bring heartache and failures.
3. Jesus died to be able to offer us eternal, everlasting peace. It belongs to every believer.
4. Do YOU have the peace that Jesus offers?