

**1. Peace is the will of God.** From the first chapter of Scripture, where God pronounced creation “good” (Gen. 1:31), to the very last, in John’s vision of a tree “for the healing of the nations” (Rev. 22:2),



God pursues peace. Trust in God is contrasted with trust in the instruments of war (Is. 31:1; Ps. 20:7, 33:16-17; Hos. 1:7).

## The Bible Speaks About Peace

*12 things every Christian should know*

**2. Peace was the mission of Jesus.** His role as “The Prince of Peace” was foretold by Isaiah (9:6). Angels announcing his birth declared “Glory to God” and “peace on earth” (Lk. 2:14). Weeping over Jerusalem, Jesus prayed: “would that you knew the things that make for peace” (Lk. 19:41-42).

**3. The fruit of the Spirit is peace.** (Gal. 5:22). “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord” (Zech. 4:6). Prior to his death, Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you,” in reference to the coming presence of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:25-27).

**4. Peace was the witness of the early church.** The new community created in Christ bore witness by its reconciled fellowship: “And all who believed were together and had all things in common” (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-37). Paul urged that the church’s “feet” be “shod with the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15).

**5. Peace is more than the absence of war.** Peace—shalom—occurs when captives are released (Lk. 4:18); when outcasts are gathered (Zeph. 3:19); when the hungry have plenty to eat (Joel 2:19-26; Lk. 1:53; 1 Sam. 2:1-8).

**6. The foundation of peace is justice.** “The effect of righteousness [justice] will be peace,” predicted Isaiah (32:17). “Righteousness and peace will kiss,” wrote the psalmist (85:10). “Sowing justice” will result in peace, said Hosea (10:12-14).

**7. Peace, like war, is waged.** Peacemakers are not passive, but active. Peter, echoing the psalmist, urges us to “seek peace, and pursue it” (1 Pet. 3:11; Ps. 34:14). Jesus urged worshipers to take the initiative to settle disputes (Mt. 5: 23-24). Peace includes loving and feeding enemies (Lk. 6:27; Rom. 12:20).

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## 8. Peacemakers sometimes cause trouble.

Jesus turned over the tables of oppressive money-changers (Jn. 2:13-16). When he says “I come not to bring peace but division (Lk. 12:51), the “peace” of which he speaks merely disguises an order of injustice (see Jer. 6:13-15). It was Jesus’ peacemaking mission which landed him on the cross (Col. 1:20).

**9. Peacemaking is rooted in grace.** In Jesus’ prayer, our “debts” are forgiven in the measure to which we forgive others (Mt. 6:12). “Whoever is forgiven little, loves little” (Lk. 7:47). It is grace which frees us from our fear (1 Jn. 4:18) and empowers us to risk our lives for the sake of justice and peace.

**10. Peace in Christ and in creation are linked.** Not only are divisions in the human community overcome “in Christ” (Galatians 3:28), but also in the whole created order. The knowledge of God and the healing of creation are parallel realities (Is. 11:3-9). The land itself mourns (Is. 33:9). “But ask the beasts . . . and the birds . . . or the plants, and they will teach you” of the ways of the Lord (Job 12:7-10).

**11. Peacemaking is not optional.** The separation between “preaching the Gospel” and “working for peace and justice” is a perversion of biblical truth. Jesus prayed: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Mt. 6:10). We lie if we say we love God yet fail to assist neighbors in need (1 Jn. 4:20). Loving enemies—whether close at hand or far away—is the way to become children of God (Mt. 5:44-45).

**12. God’s promised future is peace.** Though now living as “aliens” in a strange land, peacemakers have caught a glimpse of how the future will finally unfold. Both Isaiah and John’s Revelation speak of the coming “new heaven and new earth” (Is. 65:17-22; Rev. 21:1). The day is coming, says Micah, when nations “shall beat their swords into ploughshares . . . and neither shall they learn war any more” (4:3-4). On that day, creation itself—which “has been groaning in travail . . . will be set free from its bondage to decay” (Rom. 8:19-24).

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