

FRUIT of the *Spirit*

Sunday, August 30, 2020 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 3 | **PEACE**

Isaiah 26; Philippians 4:5b-8

Peace **WITH** God (Isa. 26:1-2, 12)

from enemies... Ephesians 2:1-3; 11-12; Romans 5:8-10

...to friends! Ephesians 2:4-10; 13ff; Colossians 1:20-22; John 15:15; Romans 5:1

brings the peace **OF GOD** (Isa. 26:3-4; Phil 4:5b-7)

perfect peace — *shalom* Isa. 32:16-17; John 14:27

the fruit of peace *within* Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15

and helps *me* **MAKE PEACE.** (Isa. 26:3-4; Phil 4:8)

the fruit of peace *in action*

with others Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18

with my circumstances Philippians 4:8



What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

Welcome back to Life Groups! September brings a fresh session of Life Groups and we're looking forward to a great fall together! We're starting the year studying the Fruit of the Spirit that the Holy Spirit grows in the lives of Christians as we stay close to Jesus.

Getting Started

Getting to Know You: If you have new people in your group, be sure to introduce everyone and share a little about who you are. After that: *What "as seen on TV" product have you been most tempted to buy after seeing its infomercial? (Which ones have you actually bought!?)*

Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

Choose one or both of the studies below to discuss with your group, then follow the prayer suggestions.

Peace Within

* Many of this week's questions borrowed from Phyllis J. LePeau et al., *Fruit of the Spirit: 48 Bible Studies for Individuals or Groups* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013).

1. What sorts of things make you feel anxious?
2. **Read Philippians 4:4-9.** Paul begins by telling us repeatedly to "rejoice in the Lord always" (**v. 4**). What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? Why can you do it in any circumstance?
3. Why is prayer (**v. 6**) our first and best defenses against anxiety? Why is thankfulness an essential part of this?
4. Anxious people can become obsessed with negative thinking. How can focusing on the good things in **v. 8** free us from the grip of anxiety? Give some specific examples of the kinds of good things you might think about to combat anxiety.
5. **Verse 9** lists a third defense against anxiety, what is it?

Peace in Action

1. We're living in an increasingly divided culture. Why do you think people often feel a need to distinguish between "us" and "them"?
2. **Read Ephesians 2:11-22.** The Jews called the Gentiles "uncircumcised" (**v. 11**) and even referred to them as "dogs" (**Matthew 15:26**). What labels do people today apply to those who are different from them? What's wrong with such labels?
3. Do you find yourself with prejudice toward anyone? Non-Christians? Different ethnicities?
4. Jews and Gentiles were separated by belief and ethnicity among other things (**Eph. 2:12**). Their animosity is no different (potentially higher) than hostilities of racism, politics, and religion today. What did Jesus do to end their hostility and separation? (**See v. 13-18**)
5. Why does Christ's death destroy all the racial, ethnic, religious, and social distinctions that often separate us from others?
6. What do we now have in common with everyone who is "in Christ" — even with those whom we formerly despised (**v. 14-22**)?

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- 7. If we are truly one in Christ with all who know him, then why are so many churches divided on the basis of race, ethnic origin, and social status? What might we do to encourage greater diversity in our churches? What might you do in your family to encourage greater acceptance of those who are different?

Pray

- What anxious thoughts have troubled you recently? – Pray for one another about these things.
- In what way is prejudice still a problem for you? – Ask God to allow the fruit of peace to overcome it in your life.

Neighboring Church

Pray this week for the ministry and people of Milford Christian Church. Thank the Lord for their partnership in ministry as our Student Ministry utilizes their gym every week! Pray that God might continue to grow our partnership.

Personal Prayer Items

Word Find for Philippians 4:5b-9 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

^{5b}The **Lord** is at **hand**; ⁶do not be **anxious** about **anything**, but in **everything** by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your **requests** be **made known** to God. ⁷And the **peace** of God, which **surpasses** all **understanding**, will **guard** your **hearts** and your **minds** in **Christ Jesus**. ⁸**Finally**, **brothers**, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if **there** is any **excellence**, if **there** is **anything** **worthy** of praise, think about these **things**. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these **things**, and the God of **peace** will be with you.

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