

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Living in Safety

**What does it mean to be safe?*

- Out of harm's way
- Out of "tracer burn out range"
- Secure

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Galatians 5:22-23, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

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To be fruitful we have to be surrendered & submitted to God...

- For Him to cultivate His fruit in our lives...
- To clean, prune and otherwise tend to us
- That His fruit would be made available in & through us

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John 15:16, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you **that you should go and bear fruit**, and that your fruit should remain"

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God is love, and love is the primary fruit of His Spirit

- We receive His love that we would **be loved**, and **become loving**
- Love's primary purpose in us is that others are **being loved** by us
- We live to love others in His behalf **for their benefit**
- Even at our own expense

The fruit of His love in our lives is of far greater priority than His gifts

- **I Corinthians 12:1-14:1**, "Pursue love... and desire spiritual gifts"
- **Without love...** gifts are nothing but unprofitable **noise!** (13:1-4)

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Knowing the fruit of love only exists in relationship, we ask:

- Who **do** we love?
- Who **don't** we love?
- Who **will** we love?
- **How** will we love them?

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*The first fruit growing from Love is **Joy!***

- Joy grows out of the love we have & share

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*Joy is the **resident** security & contentment of **love shared**.*

- **First** with Christ, then **in His behalf**
- Regardless of circumstances

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Galatians 5:22-23, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace

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The OT word for peace = "Complete reciprocal safety"

The NT word for peace = "Set at one again", restored relational safety

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*Like His joy, Jesus gives us peace, **His peace...***

- So its promised availability is not in doubt.
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John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, **My peace** I give to you; **not as the world gives** do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

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How does the world give?

- *Conditionally, deceitfully, disingenuously...*

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What happens to peace deals in the world?

- *Does anyone consider them absolutely secure, guaranteed?*
- *Mostly, we just wonder who will break it first*

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Would we let anyone take anything else the Lord gave us?

- *Why would we allow anyone to deprive us of His peace?*

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Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

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No one else can give it to you. It resides in Him & of Him

- *Don't let anyone's unfaithfulness deprive you of it.*

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Romans 12:18, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

- *No one else can take what He alone can give*
- *Peace is openly available to any who would share in it with us*

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John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me** you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- *Overcome it with what? **His peace***
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That doesn't mean He made the world's trouble go away

- *That won't happen until He returns*
- *It means **He rendered it irrelevant***
- *Don't give yourself to it*

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Like His joy, His peace must be received and planted in the good soil of our lives

- **Matthew 13:18-23**, Surrender your soil to the Master Gardener.
- *Let Him cut out the brambles, dig up the rocks & protect the crop from theft.*

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Love is who & what we are.

Joy is fruit resident in us and evident to others

Peace is what we live in & what we invite others to join us in...

- *Individually and together... just as He has done with us.*

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*Like love, **peace is relational**. It is not about personal serenity.*

- *Peace exists **WITH** someone else. It is shared security*
- *We receive peace **from & with** Christ Jesus*

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Matthew 6:10, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

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Luke 20:10-14, Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and **on earth peace**, goodwill toward men!"

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John 20:19-21, Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where **the disciples were assembled, for fear** of the Jews, **Jesus** came and stood in the midst, and **said to them, “Peace be with you.”** When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So **Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”**

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Psalms 4:6-8, There are many who say, “Who will show us any good?” Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. You have put gladness in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased. **I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**