

19 09 21

Peace Pt 3 Keep unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

This is our third study on the word “peace” in the scriptures. In our previous study we established – (1) Jesus said to his disciples – peace I leave you, my peace I give you, not as the world give, (2) Christ is our peace, and (3) the good news we preach is known as the gospel of peace. In this teaching we establish that – (1) keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, (2) Peace be on those who glory in the cross of Christ, and (3) we are to eschew evil, do good and seek after peace and ensue it.

Our three points established from the scriptures –

1. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace with all meekness

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph.4: 1– 3).

2. Peace be on those who glory in the cross of Christ

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God” (Gal.6:14–16).

3. We are to eschew evil, do good and seek after peace and ensue it

“Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it” (1 Pet.3: 11).

Illustration

When ten people say they have a word from the Lord, that the Spirit has spoken to them and each say something that either contradicts the other, or the scriptures, then the Spirit has not spoken to them. Because the spirit of the prophets is subject unto the prophets and God is not the author of confusion, but of peace (1Cor.14: 32–33). Any spiritual gift is the same – speaking in tongues, prophesy – we are subject one to the other.

Question to think about.

i) How would teachers endeavour to “keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace”? ii) What is the common denominator for all believers to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?

Answer from the scriptures

i) Teachers keep the unity of the Spirit of God when they act solely as a conduit for the Holy Ghost, for the Spirit to teach by comparing the scriptures with the scriptures, when they do not bring their own viewpoint, nor their assumptions to the word of God–

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (1 Cor.2: 13). Only then will the body of Christ have unity in the Spirit, and there will be no more – “the Spirit said this”, and “the Spirit said that”, bringing division and confusion, and no peace.

ii) The common denominator for all Christians to keep the unity of the Spirit – glory in the cross of Christ, eschew evil, do good and seek after peace, have peace between themselves and edify one another. May the God of peace rule in your hearts!