

Overview: God is the God of peace. In the world we have affliction, but in Christ we have peace. Due to man's fall, among mankind there are many ordinances, customs, habits, and ways to live and worship, all of which have divided, scattered, and confused mankind. Because there can be no peace in the universe without Christ, the Peacemaker, we need Christ as our peace offering. Christ, who accomplished full redemption for both the Jewish and the Gentile believers, is Himself our peace, our harmony. In the Body life we should keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace. Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. For God to reconcile all things to Himself is to make peace unto Himself for all things. This was accomplished through the blood of the cross of Christ. We have been called to the peace of Christ in one Body. No one who is independent of the Body has real peace. Dependence on the Body brings in genuine peace. For the Body life we need to allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate, to adjust, and to decide all things in our hearts in our relationship with the members of His Body.

II. Due to man's fall, among mankind there are many ordinances, customs, habits, and ways to live and worship, all of which have divided, scattered, and confused mankind; there are partitions between every nationality and race, and thus among the human race there is no peace, only enmity, discord, and war.

III. Because there can be no peace in the universe without Christ, the Peacemaker, we need Christ as our peace offering: A. The peace offering typifies Christ as the Peacemaker.
B. As the fulfillment and the reality of the type of the peace offering, Christ is our peace; through Him and in Him we have peace with God and with one another.
C. Apart from Christ we cannot have peace with God or with others; we can have such peace only through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ.
D. In the Body life and for the Body life, we need Christ as our peace.

IV. Christ is the peace offering for the Body of Christ as revealed in Ephesians:

A. Christ, who accomplished full redemption for both the Jewish and the Gentile believers, is Himself our peace, our harmony: 1. When Christ was crucified as the peace offering, His death abolished, annulled, the different ordinances of human life and religion. 2. The differences among the races and the differences of social rank have been abolished. 3. By Christ's abolishing in His flesh the separating ordinances, that is, by His slaying the enmity, and by His creating the Jewish and the Gentile believers into one new man, peace was made between all believers. 4. In one Body both the Jews and the Gentiles were reconciled to God through the cross; we were reconciled to God not only for the Body of Christ but also in the Body of Christ. 5. Peace is possible only when everything contrary to God's economy has been terminated. 6. Through the blood of Christ we have been brought near both to God and to God's people.

B. In resurrection Christ came as the Spirit to preach peace as the gospel; the Christ who died as the Peacemaker, shedding His blood in order to reconcile us to God, came to us as the life-giving Spirit, even as the preaching Spirit, to preach the gospel of peace. 1

C. In the Body life we should keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

1. Christ abolished on the cross all the differences among mankind due to ordinances, and in so doing, He made peace for His Body; this peace should bind all believers together and thus become the uniting bond of peace. 2. If we remain on the cross in our practice of the church life, the peace that Christ made on the cross will become the uniting bond in which we keep the oneness of the Spirit. 3. The uniting bars of the tabernacle signify the mingled spirit—the divine Spirit mingled with the regenerated human spirit—to become the uniting bond of peace; in our experience the uniting bond of peace is the cooperation of our spirit with the uniting Spirit, the crossing Spirit.

D. In order to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to have our feet shod with the firm foundation, the establishing, of the gospel of peace:

1. Christ made peace for us, with both God and man, on the cross, and this peace has become our gospel. 2. This gospel of peace has been established as a firm foundation with which our feet may be shod; being thus shod, we will have a firm footing so that we may stand to fight the spiritual warfare. 1

E. "Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly" (Rom. 16:20):

1. God promises that He will crush Satan under the feet of those who live the church life, showing that the crushing of Satan is related to the church life. 2. Dealing with Satan is a Body matter, not an individual matter. 3. It is only when we have a proper local church as the practical expression of the Body that Satan is crushed under our feet.

I. The Triune God is a God of peace: A. God is the God of peace:

1. Our Father is the God of peace, who has a peaceful life with a peaceful nature. 2. Because we have been justified by faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1). 3. The peace we enjoy is God Himself.

B. The New Testament speaks about both the peace of God and the God of peace; the peace of God and the God of peace are actually one. C. The peace of God is the God of peace infused into us through our fellowship with Him.

D. In the world we have affliction, but in Christ we have peace (John 16:33):

1. Our heart is troubled because we are in the world, and the way for this trouble to be resolved is for us to enter into Christ by believing into Him

2. In John 16:33 there are two realms: the physical realm (the world), where all the troubles are, and the divine and mystical realm of the pneumatic Christ, where the peace is. 1

V. Christ is the peace offering for the Body of Christ as revealed in Colossians:

A. For God to reconcile all things to Himself is to make peace unto Himself for all things; this was accomplished through the blood of the cross of Christ.

B. We have been called to the peace of Christ in one Body.

C. No one who is independent of the Body has real peace; dependence on the Body brings in genuine peace.

D. For the Body life we need to allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate, to adjust, and to decide all things in our hearts in our relationship with the members of His Body:

1. The Greek word for arbitrate can be rendered "umpire, preside, be enthroned as a ruler and decider of everything." 1

2. If we allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts, this peace will settle all the disputes among us; then we will have peace with God vertically and with the saints horizontally.

3. Through the arbitration of the peace of Christ, our problems are solved, and the friction between the members of the Body disappears; then the church life is preserved in oneness and sweetness. 4. The arbitrating peace of Christ is Christ working within us to exercise His rule over us, to speak the last word, and to make the final decision.

5. If we stay under the ruling of the enthroned peace of Christ, we will not offend others or damage them; rather, by the Lord's grace and with His peace, we will minister life to others.

6. In the church life we need to be at peace in everything, in every way, and with everyone; for this we need the Lord of peace to give us peace continually in every way. 1

Day 1 Rom. 15:33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.
John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

Day 2 Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,

Day 3 Eph. 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it. 17 And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near,

Day 4 Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
Eph. 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;

Day 5 Rom. 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Day 6 Col. 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross— through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.
2 Thes. 3:16 Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace continually in every way. The Lord be with you all.

《Composition for prophecy》

Experience ①: Consulting God makes God of peace guard your heart

An attribute of God is peace. The New Testament speaks about both the peace of God and the God of peace. Concerning the God of peace, Romans 16:20 says, "The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly." Concerning the peace of God, Philippians 4:7 says, "And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus." The peace of God is actually God as peace, infused into us through our fellowship with Him by prayer, as the counterpoise of troubles and the antidote to anxiety (John 16:33). The God of peace mounts guard over our hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus. He patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ.

The peace of God and the God of peace are one. When God is with us, peace is with us also. The genuine peace we enjoy is God Himself.

A Christian can be weak yet feel strong; he can feel pain yet have the sense of peace. He feels pain because he meets tribulation from without; he has the sense of peace because he meets the Lord and touches the Lord from within. If we meet tribulation from without, yet inwardly we have no peace, something is wrong. The Lord says that in the world we have affliction, but in Him we have peace. One who lives in the Lord, or one who lives in the spirit, may meet much tribulation from without, yet inwardly he still has peace; otherwise, it proves that he is not living in the spirit. If we lack inward peace while in tribulation, it proves that we are not living in the spirit; then if while having no tribulation we also have no inward peace, it is even more of a proof that we are not living in the spirit.

For Junior/Senior Highschool Student Saints

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

Most of afflictions for student come from complications of their human relationship. For example, he feels the atmosphere of his class is not his taste, he feels annoying against behaviors taken by some classmates and cannot live with it, or he feels his teacher's solution for your problem seems halfway measure and cannot accept it. In such circumstances, you can have the peace of Christ inwardly by beholding Christ and having fellowship with Him. There is no Christ in people who do not believe the Lord, so in a certain sense, they are in alignment with the flow in the world of outside, the kingdom of Satan, so they feel no conflict in their inside. However, once you believe and accept the Lord Jesus and are baptized, you then have Christ as life in your inside and are dispositioned to the kingdom of God. But during the church age, you are still in the world. This intends to help you to grow up in the Lord.

In the environment with afflictions, you should practice the followings;

- i. You should not envy your gentile friend who has no conflict with the world. The final destination of the world will be the lake of fire, so no conflict is horrible situation.
- ii. Through the prayer and the fellowship with the Lord, your spiritual partner, and brothers and sisters leading you, you should recognize your situation looks a full of conflict but is really the environment God arranged for you to grow up.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

- iii. With your understanding of God's will upon your environment, you need to fellowship with the Lord to know how to overcome this conflict situation. Tell your requests to God by prayer and petition, fellowship with God and consult God.
- iv. And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your heart and your thought within you. Hallelujah!

Experience ②: Allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts

As Christians, we are more complicated than unsaved people are. Before we were saved, we were under the control of the satanic party. We could indulge in worldly amusements and entertainments without any sense of controversy within. But now that we are saved, on party may encourage us to do one thing, but another party may encourage us to do something else. Hence, there is the need for inward arbitration to settle the dispute within us. We need someone or something to preside over the conferences that take place within our being. According to verse 15, this presiding one, this arbitrator, is the peace of Christ.

We should allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts. All the parties must take heed to the word of the arbitrator. This arbitrator must settle all the disputes within us....Whenever we sense that different parties within our being are arguing or quarreling, we need to give place to the presiding peace of Christ and allow this peace, which is the oneness of the new man, to rule within us. Let this peace, this oneness, have the final word.

For young working saints

Brother's testimony: I was working as the director in charge of quality. However, when the company was taken over, the working environment had changed drastically and became difficult to be liable for business (the person in charge of quality to the customer and the government on behalf of the company has serious responsibilities). So I was introduced to a Japanese company in Osaka as the person in charge of quality by the brother, who is also a colleague there. As my experience in quality and English ability was highly appraised by the company, I was hired after the interview. However, as it was a career switch from a foreign-affiliated company to a Japanese company, the annual income was about 2 million Yen down. The company was hoping that I could join them in January, but due to the bonus of about 100 million Yen was to be issued to me by my former company at the end of March, I informed them that I would join the company from April. The new company was against it but accepted my joining them in April.

At that moment, I was troubled by whether to leave the bonus behind and join the company in January or in April after receiving the bonus. I opened up to the brother who was at the time the chief of the headquarters and fellowship about what was on my mind and we prayed together. After praying, the brother told me, "Since the job switching to a new company was decided, you should not place much emphasis on monetary matters, the important thing in the prayer was whether you had Christ's peace in you. If you felt the peace in you to join in January, then just go in January and if you felt the peace in you to join in April, then go in April." I prayed with my wife and decided to leave the bonus behind and switch my job in January, because I felt the peace in me to join the company in January.

After joining the company, I studied about the company's situation for two months, I began to engage in full-fledged business from March, and in April I was promoted from the manager to the manager in charge of the department. In late April there was an inspection by the relevant authority on quality and received serious remarks. This environment was also an environment in which I was tested on whether I was a competent enough manager. It put me in desperate straits and I was terribly confused, I again fellowship with the brother who was the chief of the headquarters mentioned before, and prayed together. By the Lord's guidance I was able to lead the company through without having any serious matters happened. After that, the directors of the company had decided that it was necessary to reevaluate all other issues with concerns to quality. The management was able to have this viewpoint due to my proposing of a reasonable solution.

Looking back now, if I joined the company in April, it would not have been possible for me to deal with this matter with initiative. If that was the case, the situation would fall into chaos and the evaluation on my delayed joining due to my personal reasons could have been extremely severe. I cannot foresee everything, but since the Lord knows all, it is very important for the Lord's peace to arbitrate my heart. In fact, a sister who was my boss, had told me, "You should switch job as soon as possible." after seeing the former company's passive efforts in dealing with quality since the acquisition last October. I thank the Lord for His mercy and guidance. When I think back on it, I really should have decided changing my job in January at that point. The decision was delayed because of my stubbornness, but I am grateful that the Lord's guidance is full of mercy.

The brother's testimony shows that it is a crucial secret to have the peace of Christ to arbitrate our business life.

598 召会 — その定義 (英 824)

1
 召会, 主のからだ, かみの住まい,
 召された聖徒の 結集, 神人, 調和;
 かみにえらばれ, あがなわれた;
 その性しつ, 地位, 天にぞくする。

2
 召会, 復かつ通し 新人に生まれ,
 れいとことばで あらわれ, せい。
 主, 召会のいのち, 召会のかしら,
 性しつはおなじ, 万有超えつす。

3
 主イエス・キリスト, 召会の土だい;
 召会のすべては 主と同様, 神聖。
 十字架の死, 通り, 復かつにあり,
 金, 銀, 宝せきとし 建ぞうされる。

4
 かみ, 主, 霊ひとつ, 要素はひとつ,
 信仰, 希望, バ+>テマ, からだひとつ。
 三いちのかみは 召会のちゆう心,
 信仰でむすばれ, 再臨をのぞむ。

5
 諸こく民より出, 肢体とされる,
 身分の高低なく, ひとつとなる;
 ユダヤ人, 異邦人, 自由, 奴隷なく,
 あるはひとりの あたらしいひと。

6
 宇宙のからだは かく地にあり,
 地方のたち場で あらわれ出る。
 行政は地方てき, 主はその元首,
 まじわりは宇宙, へだてはなし。

7
 諸召会の完成は 新エルサレム;
 キリストの豊満, みやこの光景;
 主は燃える燈火, 召会はしよく台,
 栄光のみかたち 完成, 到たつす。

598 召会 — 定义

一
 召会 是主的身體，也是神的居所；
 是眾聖徒的結集，也是神人調和；
 創世以前神所選，十架主死所贖；
 性質、地位全屬天，地上任何不屬。

二
 她是新造的新人，基督復活所生；
 聖靈里面受了浸，藉道之洗成聖。
 基督是她的生命，又是她的元首；
 她与基督同性情，高升远超万有。

三
 她的根基已立定，乃是耶穌基督；
 能与基督同神圣，才是她的事物。
 凡属她者都需要经过十架妙死，
 在复活里被建造，全是金、银、宝石。

四
 她的元素全是一：一神、一主、一灵、
 一身、一信并一洗，一望，神所命定。
 三一之神在里面，众人成为一身，
 藉信联结，因洗断，凭望等候主临。

五
 她的所有众肢体，出自各方、各民，
 全都结合成为一，不分任何身分；
 没有犹太或外邦，没有自主、为奴，
 没有卑下或高尚，只有新人‘基督’。

六
 宇宙之中独一个，分在各地出现；
 一地一会为原则，地方立场为限。
 地方行政虽独立，各向元首负责，
 宇宙交通却一体，无何离异间隔。

七
 她在各地的出现，都是撒冷雏形；
 为作基督的丰满，先有圣城情景；
 基督是灯，神是光，她是灯台照明，
 显出荣耀的形像，直到撒冷完成。

824. The Church – Her General Definition

1
 The Church is Christ's own Body,
 The Father's dwelling-place,
 The gathering of the called ones,
 God blended with man's race;
 Elect before creation,
 Redeemed by Calv'ry's death,
 Her character and standing
 Of heaven, not of earth.

2
 New man of new creation,
 Born through her risen Lord,
 Baptized in God the Spirit,
 Made holy by His Word;
 Christ is her life and content,
 Himself her glorious Head;
 She has ascended with Him
 O'er all her foes to tread.

3
 Christ is her one foundation,
 None other man may lay;
 All that she has, as Christ, is
 Divine in every way;
 Her members through the Spirit
 Their death on Calv'ry own;
 They're built in resurrection —
 Gold, silver, precious stone.

4
 One God, one Lord, one Spirit —
 Her elements all one —
 One faith, one hope, one baptism,
 One Body in the Son;
 The triune God is in her,
 One Body members own,
 By faith they are united,
 In hope of glory shown.

5
 From every tribe and nation
 Do all the members come,
 Regardless of their classes
 United to be one.
 No high there is, nor lowly,
 No Jew, nor Gentile clan,
 No free, nor slave, nor master,
 But Christ, the "one new man."

6
 One Body universal,
 One in each place expressed;
 Locality of dwelling
 Her only ground possessed;
 Administration local,
 Each answ'ring to the Lord;
 Communion universal,
 Upheld in one accord.

7
 Her local gatherings model
 The New Jerusalem;
 Its aspects and its details
 Must show in all of them.
 Christ is the Lamp that shineth,
 With God within, the Light;
 They are the lampstands bearing
 His glorious Image bright.