

## TLP 77: The Second Promise I Peaceful Parenting, Part 8

### I. Why Is Peace Conditional?

- Eleven times in the Old Testament God speaks these words to His children, and every time we see a prerequisites/promise pair.
- And I believe some of you may still be struggling with why there have to be prerequisites to peace.
- It's been said and sung that love should be unconditional. I agree with that. God loves us even though we haven't done a single thing to deserve it.
- But what is love? Simply put, love is doing what's in God's best interest for the thing loved.
- Everyone agrees that sending people to heaven is loving, yet suggest that someone be sent to hell and you're a hateful monster.
- Please remember that the sole end of all things is God. He's the only One that matters. Our salvation and sanctification are all about Him. Therefore, when an individual rejects God, His preeminence, and His glory, God cannot simply lavish His blessing on them for two reasons.
  - God cannot support what rejects His truth. If God allowed unregenerate souls into heaven, His perfect, holy glory would no longer be the preeminent goal of the universe. At that moment, men's happiness would become the greatest mission of God, which would mean men's happiness would become god. There can be nothing greater than God and His truth, so it stands that no one who rejects God will be able to enjoy Him for all eternity.
  - God loves us too much to lie to us. Living our own way always ends in destruction, but if God lets us deny Him and yet still sees fit to usher us into heaven, His Word becomes a lie.

### II. The Peace Prerequisites

- Find your sole source of happiness in God. Nothing else should matter. As long as you have God, you'll have joy.
- Be gracious and gentle to all men because it's God's grace that empowers you and because He may return at any time and you should desire for Him to find you faithful.
- Don't be anxious. Period. Instead, take all of your burdens to God with a spirit of thankfulness, knowing that He's brought these circumstances into your life for your greatest good and His greatest glory.
- Think only those thoughts that please God.
- Do the things God's commanded us to do in His Word.

### III. The Peace Promises

- Two times in six verses we encounter the precious promise of peace.
- The first time we saw that as we work through God's power to make these goals and attitudes our highest priority, God promises to bestow on us peace that comes only from Him – peace so strong it's compared to a military unit led by none other than the Creator and Savior of the universe, Jesus Christ. Peace so immense it's incomprehensible. Peace that brings soul rest.
- The second time we're promised that the God Who creates the peace and Who is the eternal source of the peace *will be with us!*

### IV. The Peace Posture

- Isaiah 26:3 – *"The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You."*
- This verse perfectly sums up the necessary *posture* of someone who lives peacefully: **Trust**. People who believe that God deserves first place, that others should be loved as we love ourselves, that there's no reason to fear when God is on the throne, that their minds should only be filled with God's truth, and that they should be living the Truths of Scripture are people who believe (trust) what God has revealed to them through His perfect Word.
  - If you question God, you won't have peace.
  - If you doubt God, you won't have peace.
  - If you think He's wrong, you won't have peace.
- We must wholeheartedly accept *everything* the Bible says with full assurance and complete surrender in order to experience the peace of God.
- Please trust Him today. Take Him at His Word. Make His priorities your driving motivation. Live in the reality He created for you. Don't fill your mind with the tawdry things of Satan.
- Choose to love Him with all of your heart, and . . . "the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

### V. Practical Steps to Becoming a Peaceful Parent

- First, if you're not a born again follower of Christ, will you please make that commitment today? If you want to know how to have a relationship with God and there's no one you know who can explain it to you, please send us an email to [counselor@TruthLoveParent.com](mailto:counselor@TruthLoveParent.com) and I will personally show you from God's Word how you can be a born-again follower of Christ.
- We must be intoxicated with the Bible. You cannot rejoice in who God is, show your gentle spirit to all men, reject anxiety, think right, or do right if you don't know what God's Word says. Please commit, or recommit to a daily time of Bible study. I'll be doing an episode soon of my favorite ways to study God's Word, and I look forward to sharing that with you.

- Every day you need to fall on your face before God and beg Him to help you fulfill the Peace Prerequisites. We can't do it alone. We need Him. If you're serious about changing who you are to become a Peaceful Parent, you're going to need the Holy Spirit's strength, and you're going to need to run to Him repeatedly throughout the day.
- Number four, as part of your plan for being a premeditated parent, work today to be loving to your family. That means you have to be humble, kind, patient, and forgiving. Check out Episode 38 entitled "The Communication House | God's plan for your family talk" to get some solid help in this category.
- The fifth thing you can do today to have peace in your parenting is to start the habit of thanking God for the strife in your home. No, you're not thanking Him for the sin, but you can thank Him for how He promises to use this situation in your life if you love Him and submit to His plan for your life. You can also check out Episode 37 to understand better how God wants you to respond to that terrorist you have living in your home.
- My sixth admonition for you to start today is set out little reminders throughout your house that draw your mind back to reality. It's so easy to get pulled back into delusional living when we fill our heads with the garbage the world is throwing at us. Getting rid of that garbage is also a good start, but it's so helpful to have reminders or Bible verses or images up around the house or at work or on our phones or in our cars to drag out minds back to reality when the inevitably drift
- I know I'm giving you a lot, and maybe you don't have to tackle them all today, but the seventh thing you can do today is purpose in your heart to obey God's Word. As you encounter Truth in your daily study, commit to be that person, do that things, speak those words, or feel that way.
- And lastly, here's something many of you won't be able to do today (however, if you're listening to this after September of 2017, you can likely do it today): In the very near future, we're going to roll out a free 25 day curriculum called "25 Days to Becoming a Premeditated Parent." Go to [TruthLoveParent.com](http://TruthLoveParent.com) and sign up for free. They say it takes about two weeks to break a bad habit, so we're going to take a month to complete 25 assignments designed to help you become an intentional, premeditated parent. In addition, we're also creating a parenting course called "25 Days to Becoming a Peaceful Parent" which will build on this series. Like us on Facebook and Twitter, subscribe to this podcast, and check back on [TruthLoveParent.com](http://TruthLoveParent.com) before September so you don't miss out on our first free parenting course.

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