

Peace in the Family

Acts 16:31 New American Standard Bible (NASB 1995)

³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Ephesians 6:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB 1995)

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Romans 14:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB 1995)

¹⁹ So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Introduction

Let me tell you a story of a family. In the beginning, this family was almost perfect. They had everything: a husband and wife who loved each other, a life where God provided everything they needed, and a home filled with happiness. The husband was so brilliant that his knowledge on animals and plants was second to none. He walked and talked with God daily, as a friend speaks with a friend.

They were happy and content—until the day when they fell into the devil’s temptation and disobeyed God. Instantly, all the harmony and balance in their lives began to unravel. They lost their privilege and connection with God, but that was only the beginning of their trouble.

Later, they had two sons. One day, jealousy and rage consumed the older brother, leading him to murder his own sibling and flee. It broke the parents’ hearts. Almost overnight, this family lost two sons—one to death, the other to the life of a fugitive. **Peace in the family was utterly destroyed.**

You know this family. It’s the family of **Adam and Eve**. That ancient story perfectly mirrors what happens in our homes today whenever sin and selfishness take over. Just like the Garden, our homes can be ruined by **unforgiveness, constant tension, estranged relationships**, and the quiet battles we fight every day.

This morning, our topic is **Peace in the Family**—*Shalom*, meaning wholeness and harmony, in the family. We must understand where this peace comes from and how to reclaim it.

Content

We wish peace, harmony, love, and completeness for every member of the family, do we not? Wouldn't it be indeed wonderful if everyone in the family is getting along, happy, healthy, and content?

The reality is that many of us are unhappy with our lives. We suffer from estranged relationships and brokenness. We wish for peace, but where does it start? We try almost everything, but we often forget the **spiritual aspect** of this battle. We must recognize that beyond the surface, that is, in the spiritual world, three parties are involved in family peace: **the devil the Destroyer, us, and Jesus the Restorer.**

Devil the Destroyer, Jesus the Restorer: Have you ever wondered why there are so many broken families in the world? Although we humans share responsibility for our troubles, we must consider the spiritual aspect.

I told you about the first family in the Bible. Adam and Eve's. When they disobeyed God, sin came into the world. Consequently, their relationship with God was broken and peace with God was lost. They were kicked out of Eden. Later, the two parents witnessed a tragedy in the family. The murder between two sons. Their hearts were totally broken. Peace in the family was destroyed.

Now. Don't miss who was behind the loss of Shalom. Yes, on the surface, it was Eve and Adam to blame. But do you see the real culprit behind all of this? It is Satan, the ancient serpent, the destroyer of peace in the family.

By the way, did you know that Satan has one goal, that is to steal, kill, and destroy the family? Listen to Jesus of what He says about the devil. John 10:10--*"The thief comes only to **steal and kill and destroy**..."* He is out there to destroy us and our families. He *'prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour'* (1 Peter 5:8).

Has the devil changed since the creation? No. Neither has his goal. Even today, Satan continues his old work—using every possible way to divide and destroy families. E.g., In the 1980s in England, there was a three-day convention of witches/warlocks to fast and pray with one goal: to destroy every single family in the world. It seems it is happening faster than we wish!

Now, God came up with the plan to restore peace in the family. His plan was Jesus. “... *for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil*” (1 John 3:8). By destroying the works of the devil through His death on the cross, Jesus restores peace and harmony between sinful humanity and holy God. That’s why the Scripture says that Christ is the way to the Father. The way of Peace. Satan destroys peace in the family. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, restores it.

So, the question is: **How do we experience the victory of the Prince of Peace in our homes?** Where do we start reclaiming the peace that Christ died to give us? The answer is simple: We apply His victory through **intentional, focused prayer and practice**, for their salvation and sanctification. Let’s look at three practical keys to peace, each one rooted in Scripture.

First, we must pray for the foundation of peace to be laid in everyone’s heart in our household.

1. Pray for Family Salvation. Acts 16:31: ³¹ *They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”* Note here: God’s plan is not just your salvation, but your **family** salvation. Family salvation is God’s mandate. But it is also His promise for us to claim! God desires that whole families come to know Him. While each person must personally believe, your prayers can open doors for the Holy Spirit to work on every family member.

E.g., My prayers for my extended family. Even in her 90s, my mother faced many challenges through her children’s struggles. So did my two brothers and their families. One day, I asked the Lord in prayer: *Lord, don’t you think they have had enough troubles already? Why don’t you give them some break?* God’s answer was: *Because you pray for their salvation.*

That got my attention. Because I pray for their eternal salvation, God continually works on each one of them daily. He knows that as they were, they wouldn’t make it into Heaven. They needed to repent, believe in Jesus, and accept God’s salvation through Him.

If you want your loved ones to be saved, bring them to Christ the Prince of Peace through your fervent prayers. Pray for their salvation.

Second, once they accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord, we must actively pursue restored relationships in the family, which means

2. Praying for Forgiveness and Repentance. Romans 14:19 says, “¹⁹ So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.” Christ also said, “Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Peace is a choice, an action. Where there are no repentance and forgiveness, there is no reconciliation, and therefore, no peace. Pray for the humility to forgive each other and the courage to take the first step for peace-making.

I don’t have to tell you about this. Some of us don’t speak to our siblings, children, and even to our parents for various reasons. Take initiative on peace-making. E.g., One Christian mother didn’t hear from her eldest son for 10 years. I advised her to take peace initiative as follows: *Send your son birthday cards, Christmas and anniversary cards. Keep doing it even if he doesn’t respond to you.* She acted on my advice. At first, her son didn’t respond at all. However, after a year, she came to me in great joy saying, “Pastor, you wouldn’t believe it. My son called me this week!” Praise God. **Peacemaking requires persistent, one-sided initiative.** Pursue the things that make for peace in the family.

Finally, we must guard the environment of our homes by

3. Praying for Christ’s Peace in Our House: Ephesians 6:4 says—“*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but **bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.***” This requires an orderly home, directed by God's truth. We must not only **guard God's rule and order** in our home through discipline and instruction, but actively **invite His peace** to dwell there.

In fact, Christ commands us to fill our home with His peace (Matthew 10:12-13, KJV): “¹² And when ye come into a house, salute it. ¹³ And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.”

Pray that your house is worthy to receive and keep God’s peace. Declare that the Lord will fill your house with **His presence, His peace, and His light**. And pray that anything that is an **obstruction** to His light—anything that welcomes darkness, division, or fear—must leave. Be intentional with your spiritual environment.

Do not give any foothold to the devil. Command that no darkness dwell in your house: anything godly stay in; anything ungodly and abominable to God stay

out. Pray against anything that hinders Christ's presence: bitterness, unchecked media, materialism, or any other source of spiritual darkness.

E.g., Halloween decorations that invited darkness. A young family had a new baby. In the first month or two, the son was not doing well that deeply concerned the parents. They invited a pastor to pray for healing. When the pastor arrived at their house, he noticed that the house was fully decorated with Halloween stuff, spiders, skeletons, ghosts and so on. After the healing prayer, the pastor politely but firmly asked the parents to remove all those ungodly decorations from the house and bring Christ's light and peace into the house. Thankfully, the family listened to the pastor and soon the baby got well. When we bring Christ's presence into our homes, the shadows must flee. We must be intentional about what we invite in.

Conclusion

Peace is a spiritual reality already won by Christ the Prince of Peace. On behalf of our family, we claim it by praying for their **Salvation, Forgiveness, and the Presence of Christ** in our home.

Let's make our home be a place where the devil's work is undone and Christ's peace reigns.

Pray for every family member to experience Christ's peace—peace with God, peace within, and peace with one another. Don't be discouraged; be **persistent in faithful prayer**. The Lord listens.

Let us relentlessly ring God's ears until every member is saved. May your home become a place where God's presence reigns, and His peace fills every heart and every corner. Amen.