

Manchester Peace Conference : 10th – 12th March 2017

The Things that Make for Peace

Bible Study: Three Kinds of Peace

Led by Elfrida Calvocoressi, Chair of CHIPS (Christian International Peace Service)

Shalom	Hesychia	Eirene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew – Old Testament • Outward leading inward: • Absence of war in the region (<i>Ps 147.14</i>) • Material prosperity & security within the city (<i>Ps 122.67</i>) • Wholeness & well being of body, mind, spirit in family, tribe, city (<i>Jer 33.6</i>) • Solomon was “a man of peace & rest” (<i>1 Chron 22.9</i>) <p><i>Shalom</i> is Conditional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On following God’s ways (<i>Deut 30.15-30</i>) • No peace without righteousness (<i>Is.48 v18,22; 57 v21. And many others</i>) • God’s way of training up his people to understand they need rules & to learn the cause & effect of sin, & goodness (<i>Numbers 25 v10-12; Deut.8 v1-16 and many others!</i>) • Suffering is not normally associated with <i>shalom</i>, except in Isaiah’s detailed prophecy of the new covenant of peace which God will make through the suffering, centuries later, of His ‘Chosen One’ (<i>Is 51.13-53.12</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek – New Testament • English – general understanding of Peace – “peace and quiet” • Spiritual sense – inner state of stillness, listening to God in the context of calm, tranquillity, quietness around one. • Absence of war, conflict, noise <p><i>Hesychia</i> is also Conditional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On external factors not ‘disturbing the peace and quiet,’ therefore cannot exist where there is fighting, disturbance, etc • Passive, physically inactive • The peace Jesus came to bring on earth was not made beside the calm shores of Galilee.. • Used only <u>once</u> in the New Testament in the context of peace – 1 Tim 2.2 – “That we may live quiet & peaceable lives, for this is good...” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek – New Testament • Inner facing outward • Better understood as “creative harmony” <p>Conditional?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only condition necessary for <i>eirene</i> is to have Jesus at the centre, for “He is our Peace” (<i>Eph 2 v14</i>) From that point on, <i>eirene</i> is unconditional, independent of external factors – can exist in conflict, noise • However, it may arise from that active stillness before God, listening first, being so at peace and at one with Him, that we are enabled to bring about <i>eirene</i> peace whatever situation one is in • Active, and interactive • Used in the context of groups rather than individual peace • Jesus’ peace was made in the rival centres of power in the volatile capital – Jerusalem • After the cross and resurrection, Jesus’ word for Peace in Aramaic (<i>shlama</i>) would have had a whole new meaning: see Note 3 • Used <u>every</u> time in the NT, except 1 Tim2v2

Further Notes

1. God needed to give His chosen people rules and conditions on which to base their lives and learn about him, so:
The peace – *shalom* – of the Old Testament is necessarily conditional and concerned with material prosperity and security from wars, just as children need rules and incentives to encourage and reward them as they learn to obey and mature.
2. From 1Tim 2 v2 we see that *hesychia* peace is necessary for governments, nations, etc, to function as calmly as they should.
3. Jesus' coming to earth, and making and giving His Peace to us, demonstrated the stark contrast between OT *shalom* and NT *eirene*:
"Peace I leave with you – MY peace I give unto you," (John 14.27). Always obedient to, and at one with, His Father, He lived with insecurity, and in poverty for three years; able to sleep and then create *eirene* peace in a storm (Luke 8 v22-25); walk through a hostile crowd in Nazareth (Lk 4 v28-30); and make peace between Man and God (Roms.5 v1,10) and between Jew and Gentile, (Eph.2 v15b-18; Gal.3.28) out of unspeakable suffering and death.(Heb.2 v10, 14, 18).

After the cross and Jesus' resurrection, His greeting to the disciples in His Aramaic language was "Shlama!"- Peace! Behind this lay an even deeper meaning of Peace: peace which had been hard won through intense suffering, but with forgiveness for them and complete restoration.

By going to the Source of Peace, to the 'eye of the hurricane,' you go to the Source of Love also; and we know from 1 John 4.18 that 'Perfect love (God is love) drives out fear.'

There is great fear in conflict and tension situations. We fear what we don't know and we also fear what we reasonably suppose might happen, so learning how to deal with our fear, by remembering that Jesus is our Peace, in a particular, fearful, or conflict situation is crucial for the peacemaker.

Knowing God's peace within one's heart, instead of waiting passively for the disturbance to die down and the conflict to cease, the peacemaker is actively able to do something constructive to address the causes of the conflict, etc, and bring about creative harmony into the situation.

If you would like to find out more, copies of "A Spirituality of Peacemaking" are available on the bookstall.

CHIPS (Christian International Peace Service) has based its 50 years of peacemaking on the teachings of Jesus about peace. We work with all sides in areas of conflicts to bring about reconciliation through practical action at grassroots level. See how at:

www.chipspeace.org

Facebook: [chipspeace](https://www.facebook.com/chipspeace)

Twitter: [@chipspeaceorg](https://twitter.com/chipspeaceorg)

