

# If You Want to Know Peace

## Find Peace With God

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18).

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

"For he (Jesus) is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Ephesians 2:14).

## Make Peace With Others

"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).

"And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace" (Romans 14:19).

## Let God's Peace Keep You

"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15).

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

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# JUST FOR YOU



## How Does Peace Come?

Scenes of chaos stream in from around the globe. War here, violence there, uprisings and tensions everywhere. Many Western nations have enjoyed a measure of recent calm. But sometimes the veneer of order breaks and underlying passions spill out in a spasm of angry energy.

Political, business, and religious leaders try to create unity by promoting a common vision. But when everyone does what seems right to himself, tensions arise and

discord grows. Chaos happens when people who do not share the same ideals or agree to the same rules struggle for power.

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## *Chaos happens when people struggle for power.*

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Long ago, Solomon wrote, “Go to the ant, thou sluggard . . . and be wise” (Proverbs 6:6). Today, we could also learn from another insect of the Hymenoptera order—the honeybee. Although Solomon never wrote about honeybees, they have fascinated beekeepers and amazed those who study their orderly ways and productive society.

Honeybees work under two dominant ideas: the hive must survive, and next spring, it should split off a daughter colony. As the cold of winter breaks and the small colony comes out of its winter huddle, every bee drives toward those goals.

As spring warms, the queen bee increases egg production to several thousand daily. Workers begin to forage. They bring pollen for food, nectar to dehydrate into honey, and plant resins for sealing cracks.

As the colony grows, it needs new space. Bees cluster together to chew the wax scales they secrete and form perfect little six-sided containers. Bees use this honeycomb for raising young and for storing pollen and honey.

As a new worker bee hatches, she knows just what to do. First, she cleans her own nest, preparing it for the next inhabitant. Over the next week, she becomes a nurse bee, caring for young larvae. At about two weeks she becomes a comb builder, secreting wax and building new honeycomb. After three weeks, she may become

a forager, leaving the hive to bring back needed resources. She will forage from dawn to dusk for the rest of her short life serving the needs of the hive.

But who taught the bees? Worker bees communicate about food sources by “dancing” to each other. The duration, intensity, and angle of their movements all communicate important details. Bees don’t go to school for that.

How do they know when it’s time to send out a swarm? No committee holds a meeting to decide if conditions are right to form another successful colony. No single bee makes that decision. But together, they somehow know.

When the time is right, workers stop feeding the queen. The queen stops laying eggs. Workers “eat” as much honey as they can carry. On a beautiful spring morning, the queen and half the colony boil out of the hive, take to the air, and search for a new place to begin, leaving their beekeeper to wonder what happened.

Bees and people are not the same. God gives bees a wisdom they do not choose but simply obey. We call it “instinct.” Only through this God-given, instinctive wisdom can a honeybee colony hope for order and survival.

God wants to share His wisdom with people too, but He doesn’t share it through instinct. Instead, He offers us a choice. We may choose His wisdom and live by it, or we may choose a wisdom born of personal feelings and selfish goals.

Scripture describes what happens when we live by our natural wisdom. “But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work” (James 3:14-16).

God’s wisdom brings far better results. “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (James 3:17). When we study God’s wisdom and live by it, God gives us the blessings of that wisdom. Instead of envy, strife, and confusion, God’s peace, order, and character can take root in our lives.

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## *The wisdom from above is peaceable and pure.*

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The honeybee demonstrates God’s wisdom. But its mindless activity is not a model for human society. Instead, God designed humans to relate with Him, live wisely, and enjoy healthy and peaceful relationships with each other. Yet we will never fulfill that design in our own wisdom. Instead, we will prove—as humans always have—our ability to wreck, destroy, and create chaos in our world.

The wisdom of God is embodied in Jesus, who lived among men and demonstrated it for all to see. In Him, we discover a wisdom that is longer than human history and wider than all the cultures of the world. It is pure and gentle, honest, and kind. This is the wisdom, and this is its fruit, that the world so desperately needs. It will not come through legislation or international agreements. It will only come through individual and personal choice.

**“JESUS IS  
OUR PEACE.”**