



## Study Guide – Romans Week 4: Peace

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word peace?
2. Cornelius Plantinga in *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary Of Sin*, says:

The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets call shalom. We call it peace but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight...Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.

*Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*, [Cornelius Plantinga](#)

How does this compare with what we usually think of the word peace?

3. Read Romans 5:1 - Paul tells us that since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God. What can rob us of our peace?
4. Read Romans 5:2 - Do we end up inhabiting the cycle of grief rather than the cycle of grace in some areas of our lives? To recap:

Cycle of Grace – starting point acceptance by God, our sustenance is dependence on God, our significance or identity is that we are a child of God and any achievements/efforts/works flow out of this but crucially our acceptance is not dependent on them

Cycle of Grief – starting point our achievements/efforts/works, our sustenance is our hard work, our significance or identity is contingent on our performance and our acceptance from God and others dependent on us doing a good job.

5. What practical steps can we take to ensure we remain within the cycle of grace and help each other to do so?
6. What does it mean for us to boast in the hope of the glory of God? Do you find Revelation 21:3-4 helpful here?
7. Read Romans 5:3-5 - Do we feel able to share with each other a time when we have felt really overwhelmed and low when we've been conscious of God's love pouring out into our hearts?
8. Read Romans 8: 35 and 37-39 - Is there someone that God is putting on your heart, who you can message to encourage them that nothing can separate them from God's love?