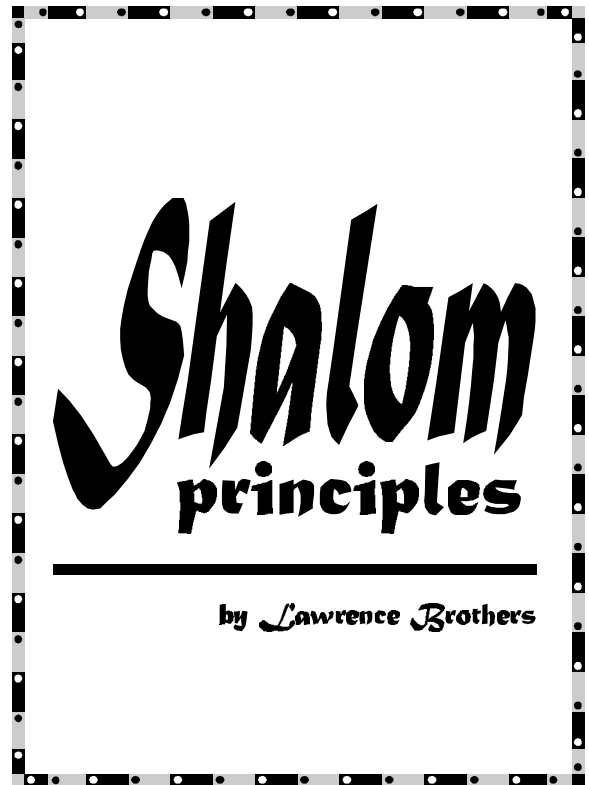


Principle #10: God's relationship with us is eternal.

Only through Jesus Christ is right relationship with God established (*Jn. 1:9-12; 14:6*).

Only through Jesus Christ is eternal life obtained (*Jn. 11:25-26; 17:1-3*).

Only through Jesus Christ is eternal right relationship with God secured (*Jn. 6:37-40; 10:28-30*).

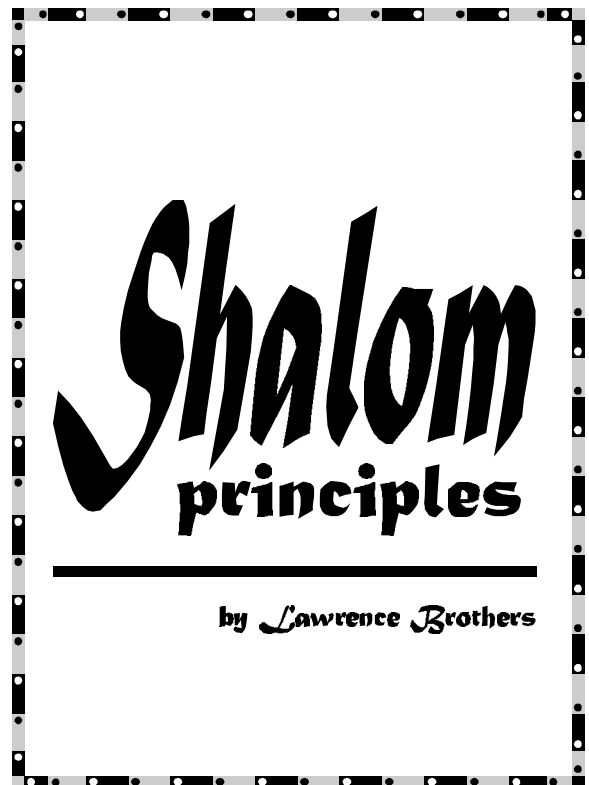


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*“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace...”*

These words, spoken by angels at the birth of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, are familiar to many. But how many see this announcement of “peace”, not as a wishful platitude but rather a divine reality breaking forth in a fractured world?

How many recognize this “peace” as the Shalom of the bible’s Old Testament, which spoke of a completeness and wholeness found only in right relationships with people, within the community and between God and humankind?

How many understand the distinctly otherworldly nature of this “peace”, announced by angels and inaugurated by the Christ of God (see Jn 14:27)?

What of the connection between this “peace” and God’s glory... or righteousness... or perfection?

May God open your eyes to His Shalom, as you consider these principles.

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Principle #9: The church is God’s earthly kingdom of right relationships, intended to glorify Him, by showing forth the excellency of His nature.

The work of the church is to glorify God (*Eph. 3:21*).

The church pictures God’s people in right relationship with Him ... as a body (*Eph. 1:22-23*)... as a house (*Eph. 2:19-22*)... as a vine (*Jn. 15:1-5*) ... and as a bride (*Rev. 21:2,9*).

The church pictures God’s people in right relationship with each other, through unity (*Eph. 4:1-4*) and ministry (*Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12:12-27*).

The church pictures God’s people in right relationship with the world, through witness (*Matt.28:18-20*).

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Principle #8: We glorify God and grow in our relationships, only to the extent that we cooperate with the working of God's Spirit within us and in the world around us.

God's Spirit helps us to:

... know God (*1 Cor. 2:10-12*)

... trust God (*1 Cor. 12:8-9*)

... love God (*Rom. 5:5*)

... honor God (*1 Cor. 6:19-20*)

... in our worship (*Jn. 4:23*)... and in our service (*1 Cor.12:4-11*).

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Principle #1: God created a world of right relationships¹ intended to glorify² Him.

God made all things (*Jn 1:3*)... and all that God made was good and right (*Gen. 1:31*).

God also made the connections and associations which allow us to enjoy right relationship with Him, ourselves, others and the world around us (*see Gen. 1 & 2*).

All that God made, including those right relationships, were intended to glorify Him (*Rom. 1:20*).

¹Right Relationship: A relationship created by God which glorifies Him.

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Principle #2: The bible is God's own true word regarding the relationships He created.

The bible describes the right relationships God made.

The bible contains a record of God's relentless pursuit to restore right relationships within His creation.

The bible is God's own true word concerning righteousness³.

³Righteousness: Living in right relationship with God, ourselves, others and the world around us.

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Principle #7: God gives believers His own Spirit, to maintain the relationships which Jesus Christ has restored.

God's Spirit works... in us... to glorify God (*Jn. 16:14; Col. 1:27*).

God's Spirit shows forth... in us... God's image (*2 Cor. 3:17-18*).

God's Spirit maintains... in us... right relationships ... with God (*Rom. 8:26*)... with self (*Rom. 8:5-13*)... and with others (*Eph. 4:1-3*).

Our work is cooperating with the Holy Spirit (*Gal. 5:25*).

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Principle #6: God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to glorify Him, by restoring God's broken image and healing mankind's broken relationships. Only through faith in Him, can right relationships be restored.

Jesus Christ alone is both fully God (*Jn. 1:1*) and fully human (*Jn. 1:14*). His work is to glorify God (*Jn. 17:4*).

Jesus Christ alone restores God's broken image (*Heb. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:4*).

Jesus Christ alone heals mankind's broken relationships... with God (*Col. 1:19-20*)... with self (*Col. 2:9-10*)... and with others (*Eph. 2:13-16*).

Our work is believing in Jesus Christ by trusting in Him alone (*Rom. 4:5; Jn. 6:28-29; Acts 4:12*).

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Principle #3: God is relational, by nature, and has created us to enjoy relationship with Him.

God is personal... He thinks and chooses (*Eph. 1:4*)... He feels (*Jn. 3:16*) ... He works (*Jn 5:17*) ... and He speaks (*Heb. 1:1-2*).

God is relational... He has always been in relationship⁴ (*Gen 1:26; Jn 1:1-2*) ... and has always desired that we be included in that relationship (*Jn. 17:20-24; Eph. 1:4*).

God is "revelational"⁵... through His words and works, God reveals Himself to us.

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Principle #4: Mankind's greatest need is to glorify God by fulfilling His creative intent through right relationship with Him, with ourselves and with others.

Question: What is the chief end of man?
Answer: The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.
Shorter Catechism (17th Century)

Our common purpose, shared with all creation, is to glorify God (*Isa. 6:3*).

Our unique purpose, among all creation, is to bear God's image (*Gen. 1:26*).

Our destiny is eternal relationship with God (*Rev. 22:3-5*).

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Principle #5: Through sin⁶ and the Fall⁷, our relationships with God, ourselves, others and the world around us, have been broken.

Through sin and the Fall, God's glory, in us, was lost (*Rom. 3:23*).

Through sin and the Fall, God's image, in us, was marred (*Gen. 5:1,3*).

Through sin and the Fall, the right relationships God made for us, were broken (*Eph. 2:1-3;12*).

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