



**The Component of Peace  
The Fruit of the Spirit**



## Rare Fruit

***Star Fruit, Carambola -  
Origin unknown, but  
native to Malaysia,  
Indonesia and Southern  
China. The star fruit has  
never been located in  
the wild. It is grown in  
captivity only.***





## The Rare Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

- Peace is just simply a rare fruit.
- We are not accustomed to its taste or its presence.
- When we see it, it seems so strange and out of place.
- But when we taste it we know that it is good.
- And when we cultivate it in our life together we realize that the fruit of the spirit that is peace is truly a gift from God because it doesn't grow naturally or "wild" in the soil of our world.



## **Peace Defined:**

- We tend to define peace as the absence of something:
  - **Absence of war.**
  - **Absence of conflict.**
  - **Absence of stress.**
  - **Absence of fear.**
  - **Absence of noise.**



## Consider why we do that:

- Because we are not used to the alternative that peace is actually something positive and war, conflict, stress, fear, and noise are actually the absence of peace.
- But peace is more than absence of negative elements.
- It is the presences of something very good.
- It may be more accurate to say that the negative elements are the absence of peace.



## Shalom

- In the Hebrew, this present peace is known as shalom. It is something real and it involves relationships. We see it at the creation ... *Creation – “It was good and very good” – But in a corrupted world we don’t recognize the “shalom of God” ...*
- *Christ’s mission is to restore that shalom ...*
- completeness, soundness, welfare, peace
- **being whole, intact; prosperity, peace: — ease, unaffectedness:**



## Why is it difficult to cultivate peace?

- Our world and culture are fragmented:
  - In order to live with one another we require rules and boundaries.
    - “Good fences make good neighbors.”
  - We divide our lives into public and private worlds.
  - We divide our world into the religious and the secular.
    - “There is no difference between the secular and the sacred.”



## Why is it difficult to cultivate peace?

- Our world and culture are fragmented:
- Our world and culture are polarized:
  - **Our culture wants to force us to take extreme positions.**
    - Red States vs. Blue States
    - Liberal vs. Conservative
    - There are absolutes, but these do not demand that we are polarized from others.
    - We are in the world though not of the world.



## Why is it difficult to cultivate peace?

- Our world and culture are fragmented:
- Our world and culture are polarized:
- Our world and culture are compartmentalized:
  - Our world and culture compartmentalizes life by setting up different expectations in different settings.
  - A compartmentalized life challenges our allegiances.
  - Strangely, we only know peace when we are so devoted to God that our allegiance is undivided.



## How to Cultivate Peace

- Live Under the Rule of God.
- Pursue peace with one another.
- Practice Forgiveness and Accountability.
- Remember your Baptism into the Body.