



A Fruitful Life

PEACE

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..."

— Galatians 5:22–23

1. The Meaning of Peace in the New Testament

peace = eirēnē

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**shalom = everything as
it should be**

1. The Meaning of Peace in the New Testament

"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

Ephesians 6:14–15

Discussion Questions:

1. Before today, how would you have defined "peace"?
2. How does the idea of shalom change or expand that definition?
3. What is one way the world tells you to find peace that is different from what the Bible describes?

2. Peace Begins with God's Redemption

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."

Romans 5:1–2

2. Peace Begins with God's Redemption

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility."

Ephesians 2:13–16

Discussion Questions:

1 . What does it mean that we had to be "reconciled" to God?

What does that tell us about our natural condition?

2. Paul says Christ is our peace — not just that He gives peace. What is the difference? Why does it matter?

3. How does knowing peace with God is already secured through Christ change how you approach anxious moments?

3. The Peace Christ Gives His Disciples

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

3. The Peace Christ Gives His Disciples

Two things stand out in that statement.

First, He calls it His peace

Second, He draws a clear contrast with the peace the world offers.

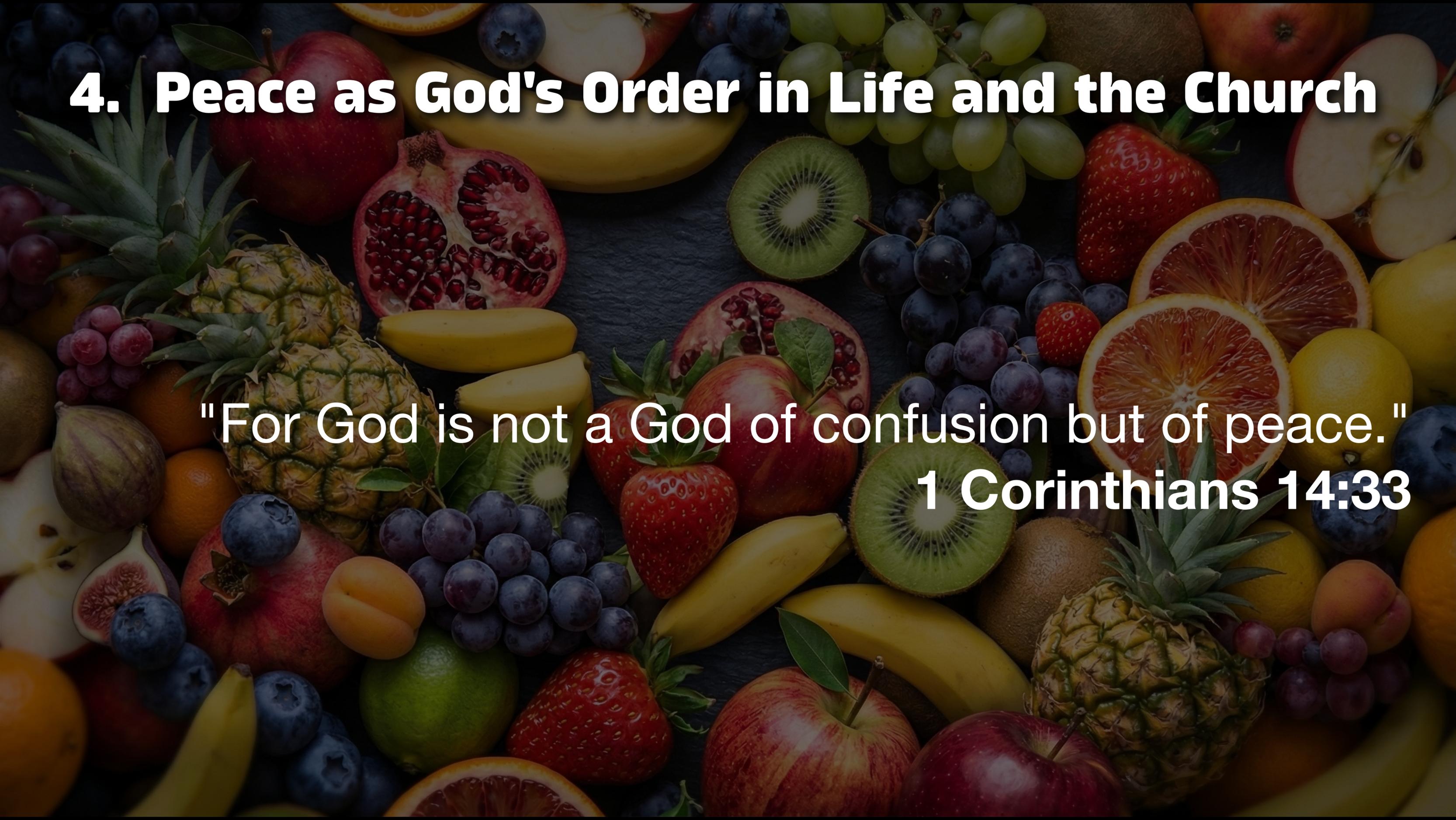
3. The Peace Christ Gives His Disciples

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

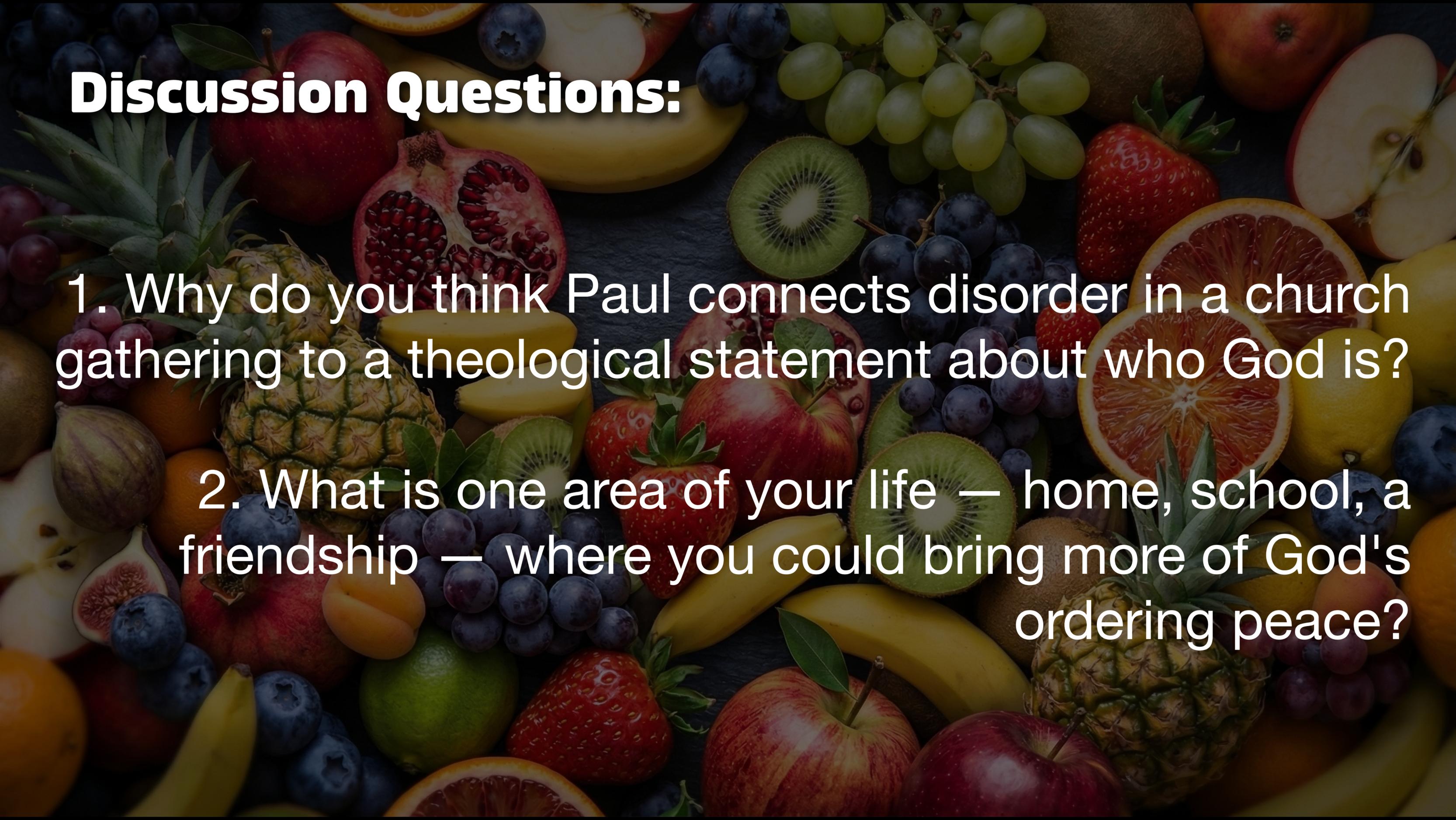
Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways the world promises peace that don't actually deliver?
2. How does knowing Jesus has "overcome the world" change how you face a difficult situation right now?
3. Is it possible to have peace in the middle of a problem — without the problem being solved? What would that look like?



4. Peace as God's Order in Life and the Church

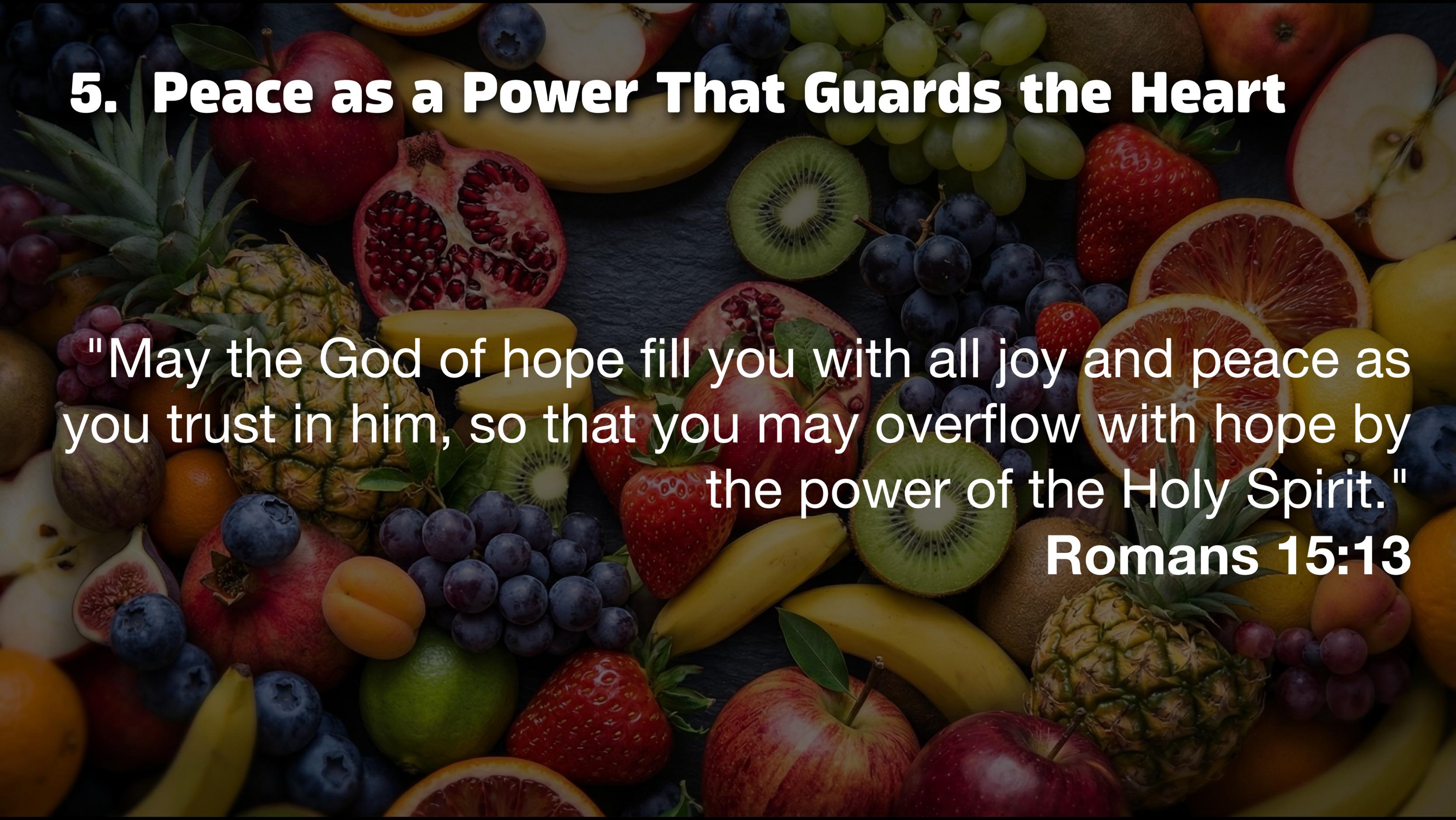
"For God is not a God of confusion but of peace."
1 Corinthians 14:33



Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Paul connects disorder in a church gathering to a theological statement about who God is?

2. What is one area of your life — home, school, a friendship — where you could bring more of God's ordering peace?



5. Peace as a Power That Guards the Heart

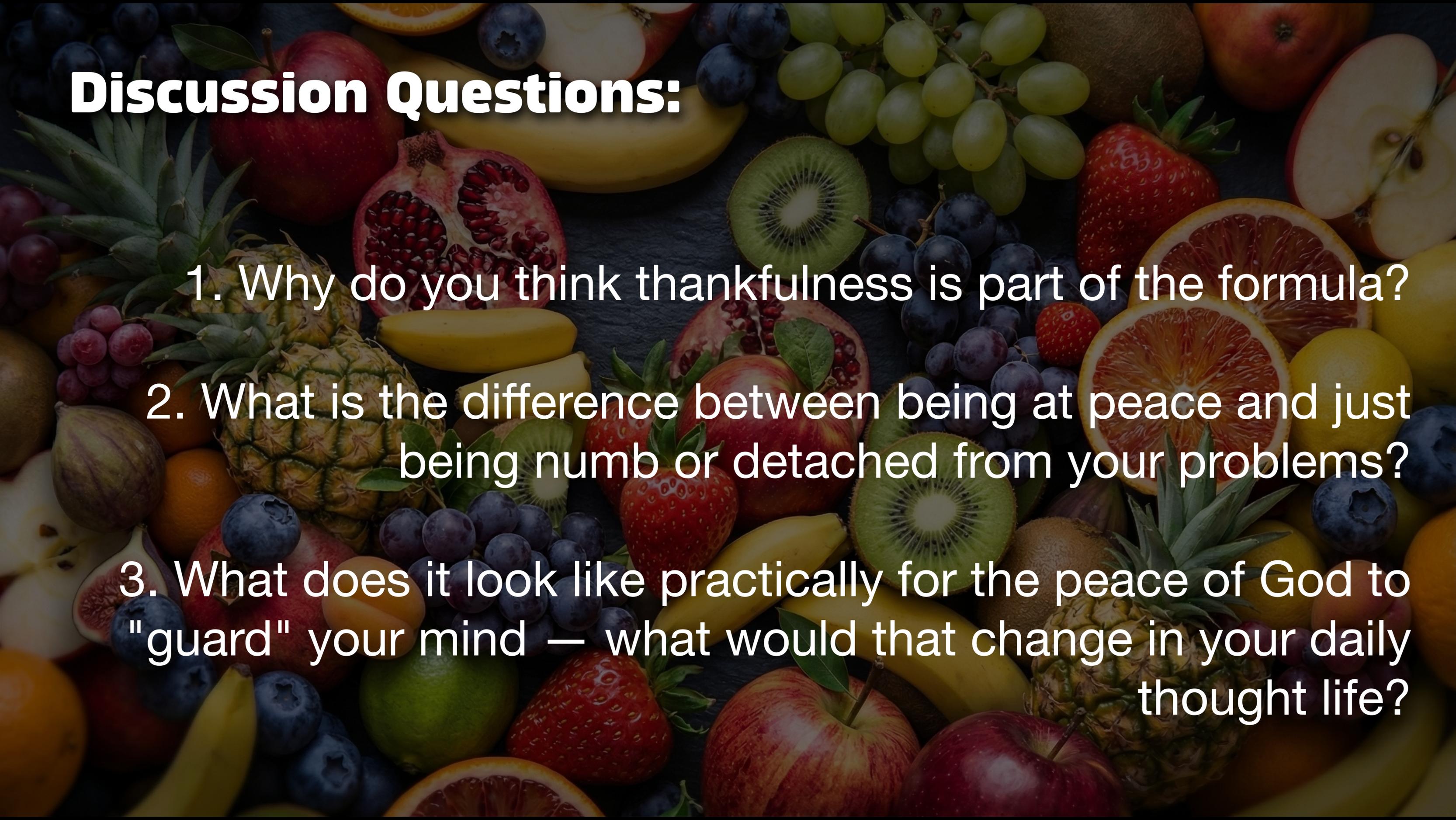
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

5. Peace as a Power That Guards the Heart

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:4–7



Discussion Questions:

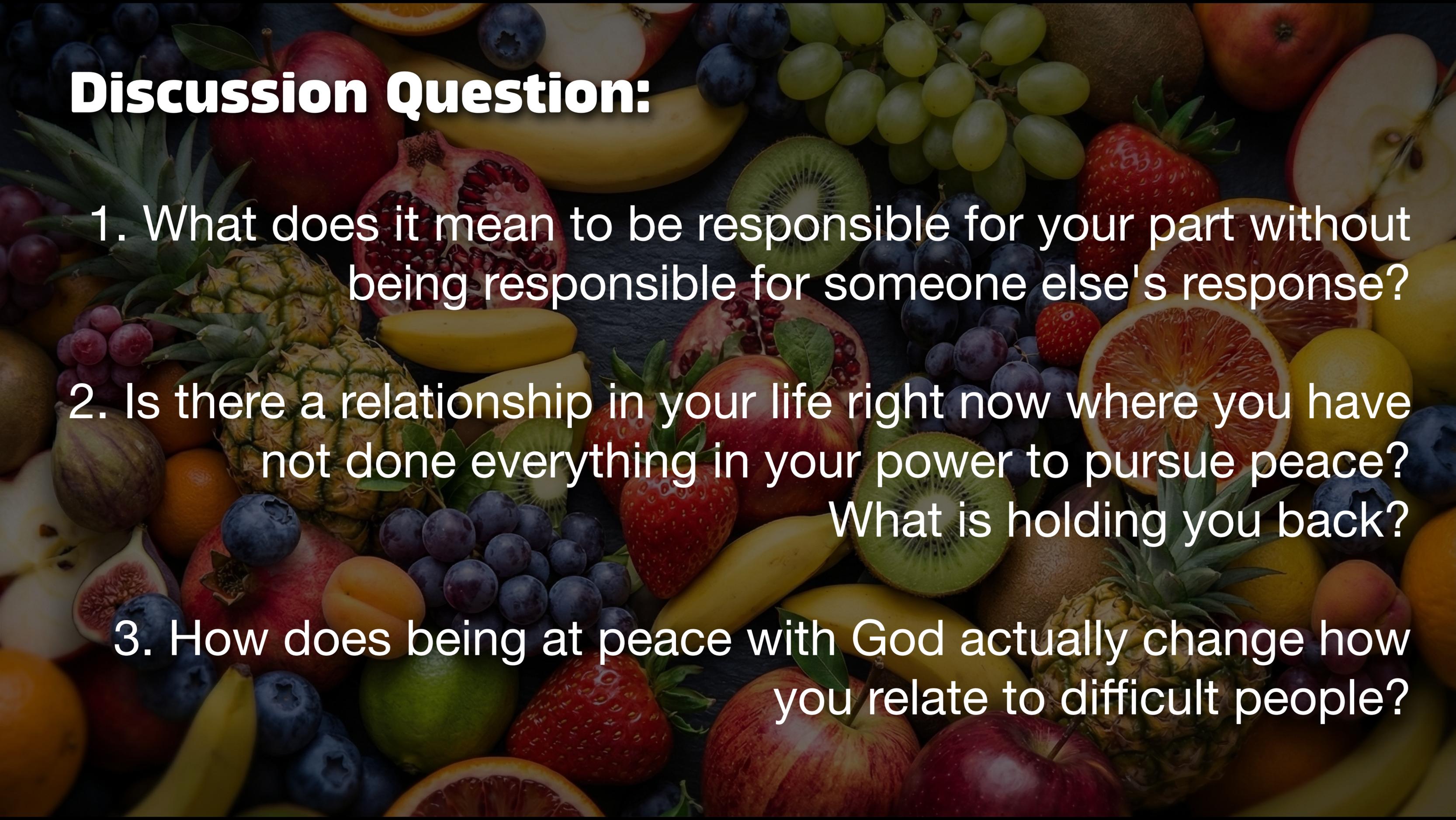
1. Why do you think thankfulness is part of the formula?
2. What is the difference between being at peace and just being numb or detached from your problems?
3. What does it look like practically for the peace of God to "guard" your mind — what would that change in your daily thought life?



6. Peace in Relationships

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Romans 12:17-18



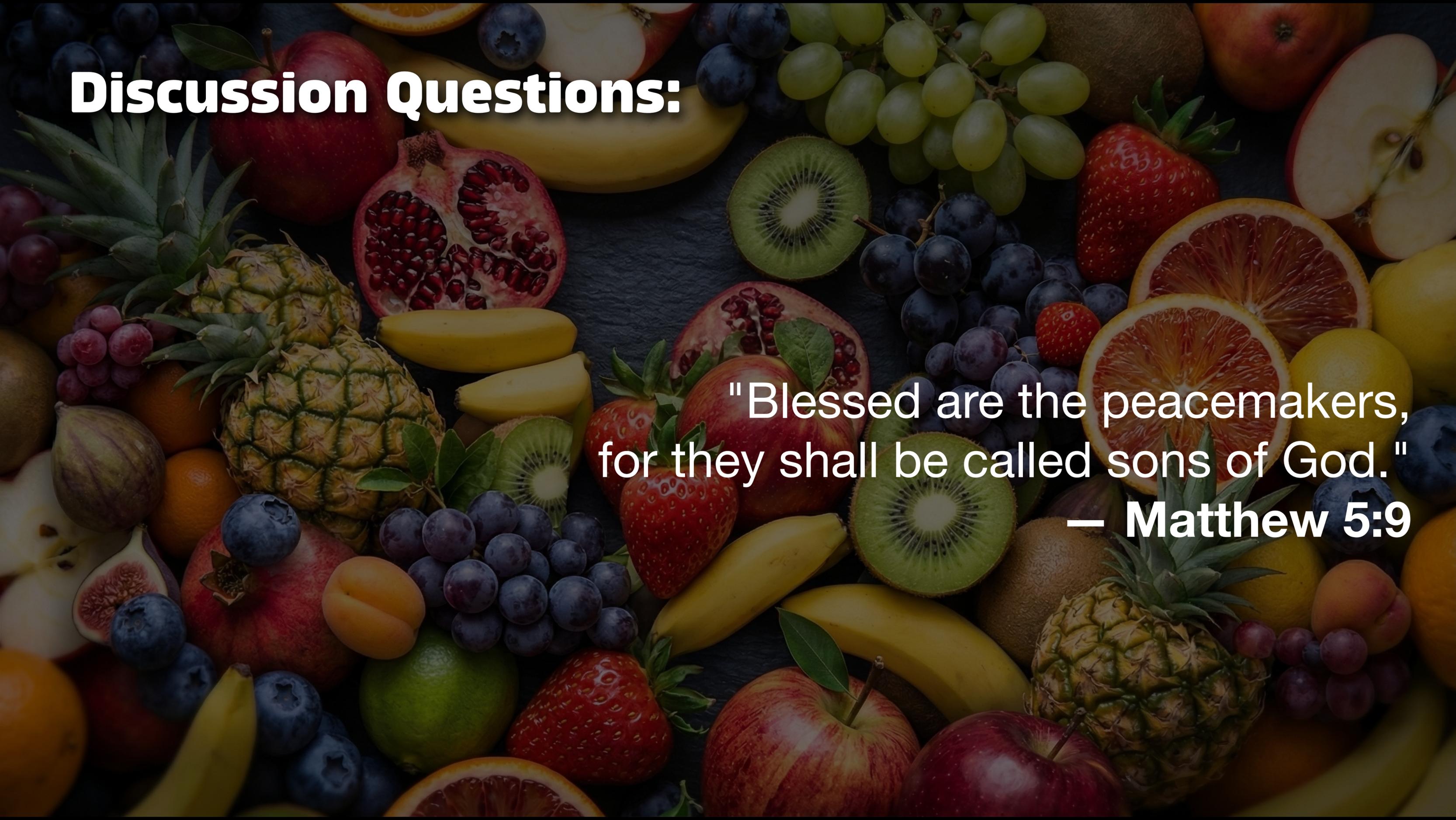
Discussion Question:

1. What does it mean to be responsible for your part without being responsible for someone else's response?
2. Is there a relationship in your life right now where you have not done everything in your power to pursue peace? What is holding you back?
3. How does being at peace with God actually change how you relate to difficult people?



7. The Calling to Be Peacemakers

"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God."
— Matthew 5:9



Discussion Questions:

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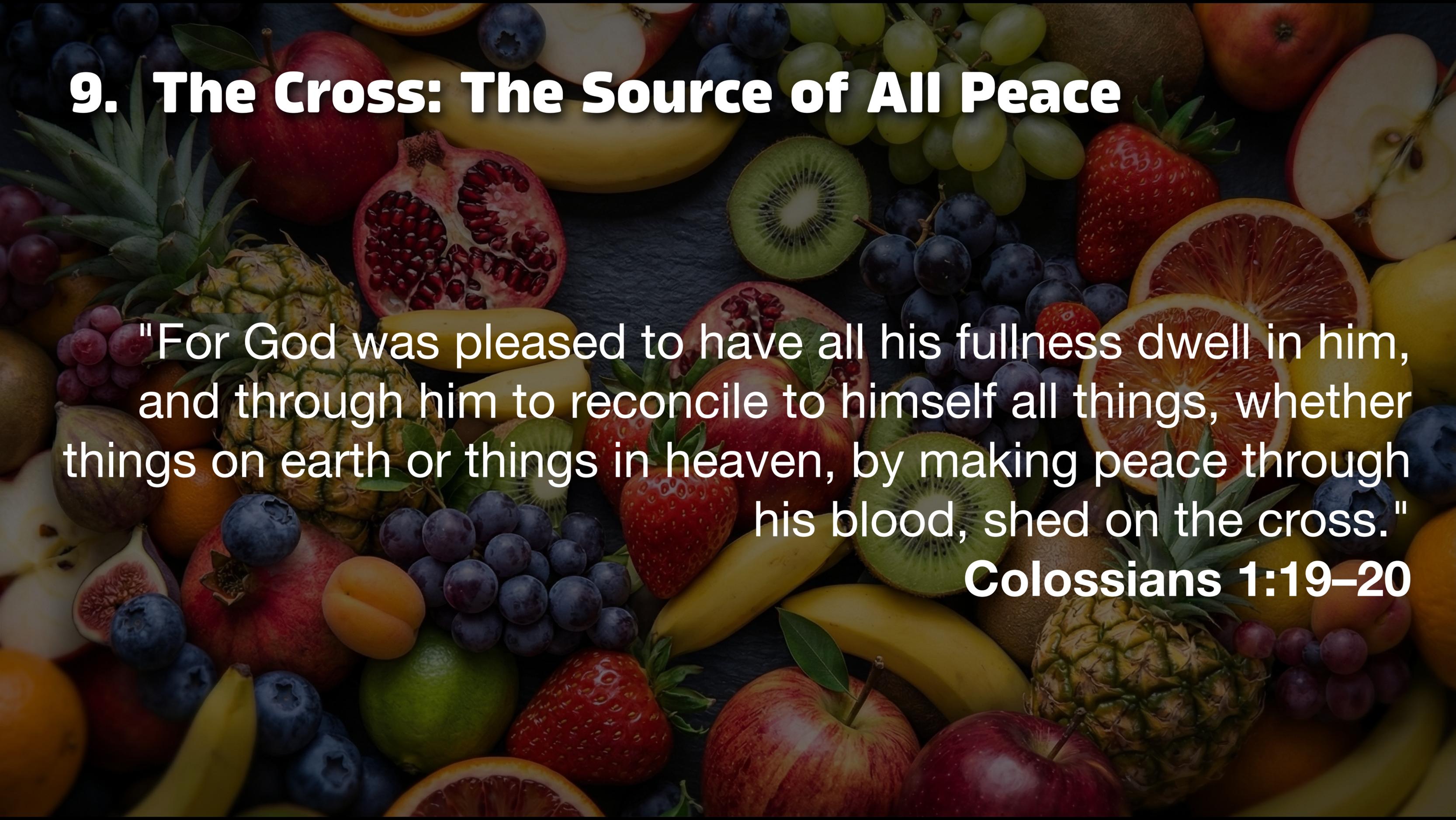
8. Peace and Spiritual Growth

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Hebrews 12:11

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever gone through something hard and come out the other side with more peace than you had going in?
What happened?
2. Why do you think comfort alone cannot produce deep peace?
3. How does seeing a difficult season as a place where peace can grow change how you respond to it?



9. The Cross: The Source of All Peace

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

Colossians 1:19–20

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does it matter that peace was made through "the blood of the cross" rather than through Jesus's teaching or example alone?
2. Paul says through the cross God is reconciling "all things" — not just people. What does it mean for peace to have cosmic scope?
3. How does the finished work of Christ at the cross give you confidence when peace feels out of reach?



Personal Application:

1. Receive Peace from Christ
2. Let Peace Rule Your Heart
3. Pursue Peace with Others

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