

Sunday, 26th April 2026

Peace and War

Text: Ephesians 6:10–18

The Illusion of War and the Reality of Peace

My Dearest Christian Family,
As I wrote these reflections, there are still several wars at hand disrupting the peace and economy of the world at large. The US and Israel are at war with Iran, Russia is at war with Ukraine, Pakistan is a war with Afghanistan and Cambodia is at war with Thailand.

The great Russian writer Leo Tolstoy argued that history is not ultimately shaped by so-called “great men,” but by the countless, unseen actions of ordinary men.

In his famous work *War and Peace*, he portrays the chaos of human conflict and the deep longing of the human soul for meaning, simplicity, and peace.

And yet, Tolstoy’s vision, though insightful, remains incomplete.

For Scripture reveals to us a far deeper reality:

All of human history is not merely the story of nations at war—but the story of God making peace.

The Bible itself is, in one sense, a grand narrative of peace and war.

- War—because sin has made man an enemy of God.
- Peace—because God, in Christ, has reconciled sinners to Himself.

I. The Great War: Man Against God

From the beginning, sin plunged humanity into rebellion.

“The carnal mind is enmity against God...” (Romans 8:7)

Man did not merely stumble—he declared war against his Creator.

John Calvin writes:

“Man’s nature is a perpetual factory of idols.”

This rebellion is not passive—it is active hostility.

Every sin, every act of pride, every rejection of God is an act of war.

And yet, here is the wonder of the gospel:

God does not wage war against His people—He makes peace with them.

II. The Prince of Peace: Christ Our Reconciliation

Into this war-torn world came our beloved Lord Jesus Christ—not as a

conqueror of nations, but as a Savior of souls.

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

“For He Himself is our peace...”
(Ephesians 2:14)

Through:

- His crucifixion
- His resurrection
- His ascension
- His glorification

Christ has secured eternal victory.

Herman Bavinck beautifully said: “Grace restores nature, not by annihilating it, but by renewing it.”

Through our beloved Christ, the war between God and His elect is over. We are no longer enemies—we are children of God.

III. A New War: Not Against Flesh and Blood

Now here is where many of us go astray. Though we are at peace with God, we are not without conflict.

But listen carefully to Scripture:
“For we wrestle not against flesh and

blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world..." (Ephesians 6:12)

This is not Tolstoy's battlefield of cannons and cavalry.

This is a spiritual war.

- Not physical
- Not political
- Not against other men

But against:

- Sin
- Satan
- Darkness
- Spiritual corruption

John Owen warned:

“Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.”

IV. The Armor of God: How We Fight

God has not left His people defenseless.

“Put on the whole armour of God...”

(Ephesians 6:11)

We do not fight with earthly weapons,
but with divine ones:

Our Defense:

- Belt of truth
- Breastplate of righteousness
- Shield of faith
- Helmet of salvation

Our Weapon:

- The sword of the Spirit—the Word of God

This is our only offensive weapon.

Martin Luther declared:

“The Word of God is the greatest, most necessary, and most important thing in Christendom.”

We do not conquer by force—but by truth.

V. The Certainty of Victory

My beloved Family, do take heart: This war is not uncertain.

“The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.” (Romans 16:20)

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

We are not fighting for victory—we are fighting from victory!

Christ has already triumphed!

VI. The Tragedy of Earthly Wars

How grievous it is to see the world today:

- Nations rising against nations
- Wars fought in the name of religion

- Bloodshed justified by corrupted hearts

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes...” (Proverbs 21:2)

Some even claim to fight in the name of God.

But they do not see clearly.
They walk by corrupted sight.

VII. The Calling of the Church: Warriors of Peace

But we, the children of God are different.

We do not march into physical battlefields.

We walk in peace.

“Blessed are the peacemakers...”

(Matthew 5:9)

Yet do not mistake peace for passivity.

We are:

- Warriors of light
- Soldiers of Christ
- Ambassadors of peace

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we:

- War against sin
- Resist the devil
- Stand for truth
- Proclaim the gospel

Francis Turretin wrote:

“The Christian life is a continual warfare.”

But it is a warfare marked by:

- Peace with God
- Wisdom in Spirit
- Victory in Christ

Conclusion:

Peace Secured, War Defined

My dearest Christian Family,

Let us remember:

- We were at war with God—but now we have peace.

- We are not at war with men—but with sin and darkness.
- We are not defeated soldiers—but victorious warriors in Christ.

So let the world rage in confusion.

Let nations fight in blindness.

They march to war with hatred in their hearts.

But let us walk:

- In peace
- In truth
- In the Spirit
- In love

For we are not warriors of destruction—
We are warriors of peace, for the glory
of our beloved Triune God.

Much love,
Francis