Introduction:
A. Paul calls for *congregational* peace.
   1. Written to a local church (1:1).
   2. Helps the work of elders. (5:12,13).
B. Brethren need such peace today.
   1. To bring order out of chaos — daily hear of strife.
   2. To reinforce our message to the world. (Cf. John 17:20,21).
C. Let us explore some foundations for congregational peace.

Discussion:

I. *General Indifference* Keeps the Peace in Many Congregations.
   A. “At peace” because too dead to fight — Like a corpse.
   B. “At peace” because not really concerned about purity. (Cf. Jas. 3:17).
   C. “At peace” because consider nothing important enough to contend for. (Cf. Jude 3).
   D. “At peace” because too indifferent to study the religious issues.

II. *Moral Weakness* Keeps the Peace in Many Congregations.
   A. Afraid to oppose a “Diotrephes.” (Cf. 2 John 9-10).
   B. Afraid to stand against false teachers (cf. Gal. 2:4-5; 11-14).
   C. Afraid to exercise scriptural discipline. (Cf. Tit. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:20).
   D. Afraid to “reprove and rebuke” (2 Tim. 4:1-4).

III. *Spiritual Strength* Keeps the Peace in Many Congregations.
   A. Strong enough to rely on revelation over human wisdom. (Cf. Matt. 16:13-17).
   B. Strong enough to have and support strong leadership. (Cf. Heb. 13:7).
   C. Strong enough to deal with those who cause divisions contrary to doctrine. (Rom. 16:17-18).
   D. Strong enough bear with others. (Rom. 14:19-15:6; Eph. 4:1-3).
   E. Strong enough to keep self under control: Tongue (Jas. 1:26); Temper.

Conclusion:
A. Let us be at peace: not from indifference, not from weakness, but strength.