

Living God's Way In Peace

Judges 6:15-24, Ephesians 2:13-22





Living in Peace

- ▶ Peace is, in the Christian understanding, not about avoiding conflict
- ▶ Living does involve conflict, hassles and problems
- ▶ Christian faith is not an escapist faith



Peace is a person

- ▶ Our experience of peace is determined by our closeness to the person who is peace - Jesus
- ▶ The source of peace becomes understood to be apart and outside of himself, it is in fact the person of God



Peace is a person

- ▶ “So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” Judges 6:24



Peace is a person

- ▶ “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



Peace is a person

- ▶ **“Therefore since we have been justified through faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1**



Peace is a person

- ▶ **“but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace”**
Romans 8:6



Peace is a person

- ▶ “and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

Philippians 4:7



Peace is a person

- ▶ “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace” Colossians 3:15



Peace is a person

- ▶ “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way”
2 Thessalonians 3:16



Peace is a person

- ▶ We do not work to make peace happen we receive it as a gift from Jesus



Peace involves purpose

- ▶ Letting “God be in charge” results in our living at peace
- ▶ His purpose becomes our own
- ▶ In that faithfulness to his call comes the reality of living in a state of peace and confidence



Peace involves purpose

- ▶ We can know peace as we walk close to the person who is peace and seek to live with his purpose being our own



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ To be whole in our relationship with God and to live in the peace of knowing we are right with those around us



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ “He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.” Ephesians 2:17-18



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ Not a question of avoiding difficulties but of living through them and bringing wholeness into them
- ▶ Sin always results in brokenness



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ **Challenging the causes of brokenness are vital to regain and renew the peace God wants people to know**



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ Many causes of brokenness:
- ▶ *Sexual issues*
- ▶ *Moral issues*
- ▶ *Relationship issues*
- ▶ *Money issues*
- ▶ *Attitude issues*
- ▶ *Motivation issues*



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ **The reason for our spiritual warfare is to bring the prince of peace into authority**



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.



Peace promotes wholeness

- ▶ We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin[£] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2
Corinthians 5:17-21.



Living In Peace

- ▶ Peace is a person
- ▶ - how close are we to him today?



Living In Peace

- ▶ Peace involves purpose
- ▶ - how much peace are we experiencing as we fulfil God's plan for our lives?



Living In Peace

- ▶ Peace promotes wholeness
- ▶ - how serious are we about the causes of brokenness and how committed to promoting God's wholeness?