

EMPHASIS: COMMUNITY TOPIC: COMMUNITY OF PEACE - NOTES

Main Idea:

What is biblical PEACE?

Isaiah 9: 6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon[d] his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Questions That Need Answers:

1. What really is Peace
 2. Has Christ actually brought Peace?
 3. Are we able to find Peace in Community?
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INTRO

Have you ever had a season of life or a time, where even though life was still happening, you felt a new level of Peace? Like nothing was going wrong, like the world was passing you by and you were just existing.

WHAT IS PEACE?

- Peace is an interesting word, because dependent on who you are, can change the definition for you.
 - I would say for a lot of us, peace is simply the ability to not be anxious... to live at peace with others in some way.
 - If you grew up in the 80s, peace was about no wars, being barefoot, and having no laws.
 - Peace now a day is attached to secular culture from the standpoint of just "not judging"... you should just let everyone live their lives and do what they want.
 - So is this the Peace that Christ is describing?
 - Maybe its Peace from a place of prosperity... that what a lot of Pastors sell from the pulpit. If you follow Jesus you will no longer have any problems or any issues, your life will be perfect.
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What is biblical peace?

- Here in Isaiah the Hebrew word used is SHALOM
 - Shalom is a unique word because its used in a way, we wouldn't use peace
 - *SHALOM:*
 - Wholeness
 - Completeness
 - Flourishing
 - Alignment with God's design
 - Because of this, the word Shalom is often in the old and some in the new testament used like a verb...
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You see Shalom or peace, at its core in this way is like this... life is complex its filled with moving parts, relationships and situations and when any of these are out of order or there becomes a kink in your chain, to Israel they would call that losing your shalom.

- You see Shalom is not what we think it... why? Because Shalom is not solely about our emotions.
- Shalom is about completeness and wholeness its a matter of the soul, not our feelings.

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Ephesians 2: 11-16

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility** 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

- Think about this from the stand point of righteousness... "To be in the state you ought to be in".... to carry Christ's righteousness is to come into the state of shalom.

- What does this mean? It means peace comes from proximity and belief.

“Peace is the rest of will and heart in God.” - Dallas Willard

- Christian peace is being who are designed to be, it is being like Christ, if Christ was you.

Is Peace Found in Community?

Colossians 3: 12-15 NIV

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

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- We are called to Peace in one body, to find Shalom

“Peace is the tranquility of order.” - St Augustine

FINAL THOUGHT

Romans 14:17

17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- The Kingdom of God is being given the ability to be as you ought to be, and living shalom or living out of that wholeness or completeness.
 - Tonight we have lite the Peace Candle, as this flame burns, its a reminder that Jesus came, he fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, and this burning candle is a call that you get to live in peace. in wholeness tonight and completeness tonight.
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