

I. ME

- A. Week 3 of Happy
- B. God wants you to be happy
- C. **What makes you happy?**
 - 1. **No Thing**
 - a. More about Who than What
 - 2. **Investing**
 - a. Happiness is a result.
 - b. Invest in happiness or unhappiness
- D. Happiness is not immediate... it takes time to invest in our happiness account.
 - 1. Doesn't happen overnight...
 - 2. A lot of the regrets, situations we find ourselves in are a result of investing in unhappiness.
 - 3. What you choose to do today will produce either happiness or unhappiness.
 - 4. Have to keep investing.

II. WE

- A. Go back to something we introduced in week one and touched on a bit last week... Every happy person has this...
 - 1. **Peace...**
 - a. **W/ Themselves**
 - b. **W/ Other People**
 - c. **W/ God**
- B. This week focus on being at peace with God.
 - 1. Important b/c what the NT writers teach and what Xians believe is that... **Peace w/ God paves the way to peace with ourselves and equips us to make peace with others.**

C. What that means... (Paves the way)

- 1. If you're not at peace with yourself it's probably b/c of something that happened in your past, something you just can't let go of, dragging around with you, weighing you down.
 - 2. But when you make peace with God, He gives you the ability, paves the way, makes it possible for you to have peace with your past and yourself.
 - 3. When you realize you are forgiven by your Creator (He no longer holds any of that against you), you realize you can forgive yourself and find the freedom of letting go of all of that baggage.
- D. And Peace w/ God also equips you to make peace with others...
 - 1. B/c when you realize you have been forgiven by your Heavenly Father... you begin treating others the way He has treated you.
 - 2. You begin loving others the way He loves you. Forgive b/c He forgave you.
 - 3. Peace with God really affects the whole picture.
 - a. Enables us to have peace with ourselves and equips us to make peace with others.

III. GOD

- A. Peace with God... **The Conflict**
 - 1. So if we say we need peace with God... there must be something other than that happening right now, right?
 - 2. If there is a need to MAKE peace... There must be some kind of conflict.
 - 3. Jesus taught, and the NT writers taught that we actually have a conflict on two levels.
 - a. **Sin...** Overall big picture Sin
 - b. And **our Sin**. Individual sin
 - 4. The reason we need to make peace with God, the reason there is conflict in our relationship is sin.

B. General idea of Sin

1. Citizenship... I'm a citizen of USA
 - a. Not by choice, not b/c I did something good to deserve it. I was born here.
 - b. Not fair... but true.
 - c. I speak the language, I know the customs, I know the geography and politics, I can easily go from one place to the next.
 - d. **Vacation if I forget something... "Not like we are going to Mexico."**
 - e. We don't get to choose what nation we are born into... not fair but true.
2. NT teaches, Jesus taught, that **we were all born into the Nation of Sin.**
 - a. We are sinners by birth... Natural born citizens
 - b. You see this everywhere...
 - 1) You don't have to teach babies how to sin.
 - c. Have a sin passport, can go anywhere we want, know all the culture and language of sin, do everything that sinners do. Can even run for president of sin.
3. Goes beyond just our personal choices... we are citizens of Sin Country by birth.
4. Apostle Paul explained it like this...
 - a. **Romans 5:12.**
 - b. **Wherever there is sin there is death.**
(Relationships, careers, yourself)
5. So the NT teaches that the first problem we have with making peace with God is that we were born in the nation of Sin.

6. Sin-Gap-God drawing.

- a. Born in sin
- b. Separated from God
- c. Simply trying to act like we are on the righteous side doesn't change anything, just like speaking German and wearing lederhosen doesn't mean you are now from Germany.
- d. Jesus came to bridge the gap.
 - 1) What this is all about.
- e. Born again.
 - 1) Reborn into Kingdom of God
 - 2) New birth certificate, new passport, new life, new person, new relationship with God.

7. **Colossians 1:13-14**

- a. God wants to rescue you from the nation of darkness and bring you to the kingdom of light.
- b. Not by you doing a bunch of good stuff to earn it... or suffering enough, being miserable enough, religious enough.
- c. But through what Jesus did... Died to take away that separation.

8. **Romans 5:1-2**

- a. Through Faith... choosing to trust in Jesus' free gift.
- b. You didn't behave your way into the kingdom of sin... and you can't behave your way out of it.
- c. You need the king of the Kingdom of light to rescue you and make you a new citizen of His kingdom.
- d. Justified... "But I'm not just. I still mess up." God... "That's ok I'm saying you're just."
- e. And we can now have PEACE WITH GOD.
- f. Not through our really good deeds... through Jesus Christ.

9. The first step to peace with God is being reborn into a new nation.
 - a. Choosing to trust that Jesus has made a way to be rescued from the Nation of Sin by dying to cover your penalty.

10. Peace with God begins with faith in Jesus Christ.

- a. Not changing your behavior... just like going to Oktoberfest doesn't make you German... acting righteous doesn't make you righteous.
 - b. The only way to get to the Kingdom of God is through faith, trusting what Jesus has done.
11. That's just the first part of the conflict... general sin but also...

IV. YOU

A. Our own sin. Specific behavior

- B. Best way to think of it is a relationship between parents and kids.
1. If you had/are parents who love their kids... you sometimes, for their own good, have to say no to them
 2. And it creates CONFLICT... MY KIDS

C. My Kids

1. We would just have peace if we just said yes.
2. But if we say yes... we'll have peace now, but problems later...
3. So we are willing to be seen as their enemy, standing in the way of their immediate happiness in order for them to have peace and a happy life later.
4. One of the most difficult parts of being a parent is knowing what you are about to say is going to destroy the peace you have with your kid.
 - 1) I could just go along and bend over backwards to keep peace... but at the end of the day I know that for their own good I have to be seen as their enemy in order for them to have real peace and happiness as adults.
5. I can choose what's best for me right now, or what is ultimately best for them and their future.

6. So I choose to love them and not just go along.
7. My love is too strong to simply go along.
8. B/c ultimately everyone loses if I just give in.
9. Keeping immediate peace at any price ultimately will cost my kid too much.

D. Heavenly Father

1. Jesus told us to see God as our Heavenly Father

- a. God is so other than us... the best way to picture Him is as a perfect father.
2. And we have a Heavenly Father whose love is too strong to just go along.
3. God loves us too much to simply just change His mind on what's best for us and look the other way.
4. God knows that when we choose selfishness over love, hate over love, when we choose to behaviors that will destroy our relationships with other and ourselves... He chooses love over immediate peace.
5. He activates our conscience and He brings to light the connection between our actions and our happiness.
6. He says, "The reason you are unhappy is b/c you were disobedient. You're unhappy b/c you've chosen to destroy your peace with yourself and others and ultimately me."
7. And God loves you too much to simply say yes to something that will hurt you and those around you.
8. So now there's tension/conflict between you and God
9. And you turn your back on Him and stomp out the door. B/c your Father said, no for your own good.
10. Knowing it would cost Him peace with you
11. He loves you too much to simply go along.

- E. But like a good heavenly Father he doesn't turn his back on you
1. He doesn't ignore you
 2. The moment you uncross your arms and turn back to Him, He is there ready to restore that peace and relationship.
 3. He wants to make peace with you and have a relationship with you.
 4. He sent His son to die for you. That was the price He was willing to pay for that relationship/peace with you.
 5. He knew we would turn our back on Him, so He made a way for us to return to Him and have true/eternal peace with Him.
 6. And He won't throw you out of His kingdom b/c good fathers never disown their kids no matter what their kids are choosing to do.

F. **John...** Jesus' best friend, etc.

1. Wrote about peace with God... what it means for a Child of God to be out of out of step with their heavenly Father.

2. 1 John 1:6

- a. Fellowship = Peace
- b. Liar = Harsh
- c. Claim to be at peace with God but acting like you're still from the Nation of Sin... you're a liar.
- d. **You can't have peace with God and disobey Him, ignore what he says, at the same time.**
- e. If you know God wants A and you refuse A and keep choosing B... John says don't fool yourself... you're not at peace with God.

f. Then John nails it down...

3. 1 John 4:20

- a. **You can't have peace with God if you are mistreating His kids.**
- b. You cannot be at peace with the God who has forgiven you if you are not forgiving others.
- c. You can't hate and hurt others and have peace.
- d. You can't hate and be happy.
- e. **Peace with God is sustained by submission to Jesus Christ.**

V. WE

A. Peace with God begins with faith in Jesus Christ.

1. **Faith... Chair Illustration**

2. How you are born again into the Kingdom of God
3. Going to give you a chance to do that in a minute... if you've never specifically taken the time to do that between you and God.
4. Maybe you've already done that... God says you are in... it's not your faith that's causing this friction it's your obedience

B. Peace with God is sustained by submission to Jesus Christ

1. Your choices are creating conflict between you and your heavenly Father.
2. You want to do what you want to do... you know deep down that your choices are only separating and destroying your relationship with others, yourself, and God.
3. God wants you to trust Him that your answer is always yes to what HE asks you b/c you know HE truly wants what's best for you and He really cares about your happiness and knows how you can have it and maintain it.

C. Questions...

1. Have you made peace with God?
2. If you are a Xian... Are you at peace with God?

D. Ever not been able to find your kid?

1. Search frantically
2. Find them... are you mad?
3. No! You're relieved.

E. God has been looking for you for a long time.

1. He doesn't have his arms crossed all angry, He's never turned his back.
2. He's been there the whole time with open arms waiting to give you peace, a clear conscience, no regrets.
3. He wants you to be able to be alone, in the quiet of the night, and be at peace with your own thoughts.
4. He wants you to be able to be at peace with yourself and with those who are in your life.
5. He invites you into His kingdom of love and peace.

F. Why would we refuse that offer?

1. What is more important than that?
2. Why would you trade something that's not ever going to totally satisfy you or give you peace for true peace and freedom with your Heavenly Father?

G. Have you made peace with God?

H. Are you at peace with God?

I. Response Time.