

How to Experience Real Peace

Part 2: How To Have Peace With Others Now

Colossians 3:12-17 - [watch online](#)

Summary: We can only experience real peace in our lives if we have peace with the people around us. But is that even possible? It is when we experience the peace of God.

Main Ideas:

[01:16] It seems like life would be peaceful if it weren't for all the people.

[01:53] Each of us is and has been the thief of someone else's peace.

[02:19] Real peace comes from whole and healthy relationships.

[04:50] Peace with God clears the path to peace with each other.

[06:07] Real peace isn't seen in the absence of conflict but in how we navigate it together.

[06:36] We can't forgive what we don't acknowledge.

[07:24] Loved and forgiven people love and forgive people.

[09:34] The closer we get to Jesus the closer we get to each other.

[11:14] When we truly accept what Jesus has done we can truly accept each other... faults and all.

[16:11] We experience real peace now when we offer the peace of God to each other.

Invitation:

To experience real peace now...

- [13:07] Accept the peace of God
- [13:31] Live in the peace of God
- [13:57] Offer the peace of God

Discussion Questions:

1. Would you describe yourself more as an "Avoider" or a "Confronter?" Why do you think you lean that way? What do you see as the pro's and con's of your stronger trait?
2. Jon said, "The closer we get to Jesus the closer we get to each other." What do you think he meant? Have you ever seen this play out in real life?
3. Read Jesus' parable in Matthew 18:21-35. What stands out to you?
4. What might change in your life if you were able to see relationships as opportunities to experience and create real peace? What are some steps you can take this week to gain that perspective?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

Transcript:

IN: The night Jesus was born angels announced to some shepherds that the baby they found in a manger would bring peace on earth...

- Shalom. God would make his people whole, complete, making things the way they ought to be.

But put two people together and what inevitably happens?

- Conflict, arguments, hurt, pain, brokenness, chaos.

It doesn't have to be this way. We can have real peace/wholeness with each other... now.

And the path forward is what the xmas story is all about... So let's talk about it together.

WE: You know what the best part of holidays is?

- People... Especially family
- The people you love, bring you joy, happiness...

You know the worst part of the holidays?

- People.... Especially family
- Frustration, disappointment, hurt

Not just holidays... all of life.

It seems like life would be peaceful if it weren't for all the people.

School, work, driving, neighbors

If only we could go live in communes with the people we actually like...

- Of course what would happen then?
- Conflict or a cult or both.
- And then we would end up fighting other communes b/c they had better resources or values.

Why? B/c the problem isn't just other people... it's you and it's me. We are all part of the problem...

- Each of us is and has been the thief of someone else's peace.

Cutting people out/isolation won't give us the peace/shalom/wholeness of God

And in order to really live life the way it ought to be we need other people.

- So somehow we have to figure out how to live with each other

Real peace isn't the absence of conflict, or the absence of people...

Real peace comes from whole and healthy relationships.

So how the heck is that supposed to happen? Great question...

Apostle Paul has the answer...

GOD: 60 AD... Colossae- Ka-loss-eye. Colossians... Paul explaining how to experience the full, whole, complete, shalom life Jesus offers.

V. 12 Paul is describing the reality of a JF... A reality everyone is invited into

When someone decides to become a follower of Jesus, not just a “xian,” but pledges their allegiance to Jesus as the king of their life, God fully/completely adopts them into his family.

- It’s not something that can be earned by feeling really bad and then doing a lot of good.
- Not something we figure out by finding some deeper knowledge
- A gift God gives

And Paul says if you’ve accepted the gift... this is who you ARE... “Since God chose you” ... it’s done/already happened/can’t change it.

- Not might be someday, not something you can taste but maybe lose if you don't do it right..
- Not JF... this is who you CAN BE.

God chooses to make his children holy... set apart as his... based solely on his love for them.

It’s the idea we talked about last time... In Jesus we are defined by God’s love for us.

When we are adopted into his family... We are given a new identity: A beloved child of God.

- Jesus makes us new, starts molding us into who we were always meant to be.

Your past is not held against you... we have peace with God and that translates to peace with ourselves.

And it is out of that new identity and peace that we start seeing and treating people in a new way.

Peace with God clears the path to peace with each other.

Out of the peace with God and ourselves... we can put on our new identity like new clothes...

We can put on... tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Then Paul gives us some examples of what that would look like...

V. 13-14 Get some humans together and there will be conflict.

Even with JF’s... Though we are **ALREADY** now children of God being remade we are **NOT YET** fully there.

We still have our faults and our quirks and still dealing with brokenness...

But the beauty of the peace Jesus gives is not that we are free from conflict/differing ideas opinions...

No, the beauty of the peace of Jesus is we can disagree, annoy each other, even hurt each other and still be family.

Real peace isn’t seen in the absence of conflict but in how we navigate it together.

What do we do when conflict comes?

- Hold a grudge? Say, “I’m just speaking my truth.”
- Or do we forgive... assume the best.

- Give them the same benefit of a doubt we give ourselves?

“So we just be nice and act like nothing's wrong?”

- No, we can't forgive what we don't acknowledge.
- “This hurt... maybe you didn't intend it to, maybe you did... but it hurt. It was out of line”
- “But I choose to forgive it... and not hold it over you.”

How do we do that? How's that possible?

B/c we know how much we are loved and have been forgiven...

- All the hurt I've caused, the comments I've made, the thoughts/attitudes I've had... in/through Jesus are forgiven.

If Jesus, the perfect king, will love and forgive me... who am I not to offer the same to others?

- Especially since Jesus himself forgives *them*?

Loved and forgiven people love and forgive people.

- If you're having trouble loving/forgiving someone... ask have you accepted that you are loved and forgiven? Do you love and forgive yourself?

And this is what Jesus said the difference would be.

This is how the world will know that the peace/shalom of God is real and available... b/c his people would exemplify/display/live it

- John 13:34-35

“When love has its full effect in the community it will result in peace”- N. T. Wright,

“So we just work really hard to force ourselves to forgive... and just be really nice b/c we're such great people now?”

V. 15 This peace with each other is not something we create in us... It's not from working really hard...

Yes it is a process... it is something we have to learn to express... but the source isn't us, isn't b/c we are such good people...

- It is Jesus' peace

Jesus is the source of true peace... he brought peace with God, he gives peace within ourselves, and he creates peace among his people.

As he transforms us more and more into his image we begin to more and more live and think as he does.

We simply enjoy him... as we become more like him.. And the more we become like him the more we love each other and experience real peace

B/c he lives in us... his HS starts producing his love, joy, peace, patience... in us...

- And starts expressing it through us.... If we work with him and allow him to change us...

Paraphrase the theologian Norman Geisler... The closer we get to Jesus the closer we get to each other.

One last question... how do we do *that*?

Here's the key to all of it... Do you really want to experience peace now? Wholeness and completeness in your relationships? It's right here... it's been here for the last 2000 years...

V. 16 The message of Christ...

There is a God. He made you on purpose.

He is not mad at you. He is not disappointed in you. He is not distant or uninterested.

God loves you. Likes you. And is FOR you.

He wants you to know, trust, and love him.

So He became a human, Jesus.

Jesus showed us what God is really like in his life, death and resurrection...

Through Jesus we are offered forgiveness, love, peace, and purpose.

He invites everyone to enjoy a transforming, meaningful, and relational life through his love... now and forever.

As we explore the depth and richness of that truth...

- As we discover more and more of what this truly means for us personally and our world as a whole...
- We discover his love, our true worth, and the inherent value in each person around us.

When we truly accept what Jesus has done we can truly accept each other... faults and all.

When we truly know/accept that we are forgiven and loved. We can love and forgive others.

- Jesus most important thing- Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

Whoever your "THEM" is... "I can't stand them. This school/office/church/home/life/world would be great w/o them..."

The life Jesus lived... he lived for you AND them

The death he died... he died for you and THEM

The victory, resurrection, eternal life he offers you he also offers THEM.

As we remind ourselves of these truths, as we remind each other through our words, songs, actions... we can't help but experience his peace and we start experiencing the life we were created for...

To partner with God in bringing his peace/shalom to the rest of the world. **V. 17**

YOU: So experiencing peace now... Real peace, wholeness, shalom isn't about just trying to get along or trying to be a good, nice person.

It's accepting the identity Jesus offers us... being a fully forgiven and loved child of God

And then allowing Jesus to make us more into his image... allowing his peace and love to flow in and out of us.

To experience real peace now...

Accept the peace of God

- Happens through trust...
- Trust his forgiveness and love
- Trust him as your king... Pledge allegiance to Jesus as your king... step from living for yourself/trying to figure life out for yourself and step into his family and kingdom.
- Trust your new identity as a child of God

Live in the peace of God... not being a good person... but shaping life on the life and teachings of Jesus.

- Allowing the HS to shape and mold you
- Enjoy being loved by him.
- Spend time with him
- Scripture/prayer/ art of following Jesus.

Offer the peace of God... to others

- As you enjoy his peace, you can bring it with you wherever you go.
- Ask: Will this bring true peace? Not ignoring/sweeping under rug... but what will ultimately bring God's shalom to this person/relationship?
- Maybe you have to offer it and they don't know it... won't return your calls, dead, etc.
- You can still have peace toward them in your heart... you can only control you.
- Maybe start day by asking God to use you to bring peace today.

Will everyone accept the peace we are offering them? No.

But even by offering it we are creating more peace in our lives and even in theirs.

WE: Imagine if we were able to approach our relationships... even our strained relationships as opportunities to experience and create real peace now?

If relationships weren't a source of pain and chaos but were opportunities to experience the peace of God in us and through us?

Conflict could be used to offer grace, forgiveness, and peace and not opportunities to win/belittle/destroy?

Nothing would be better proof for the existence of God and the power of Jesus' love.

- What would it show those around you?

Imagine what it would do for your marriage? Family? Friendships? Work/School days?

It'd be better than starting a cult in a commune.

It's the life we were made for and the life Jesus offers all of us.

It's part of the real peace/shalom the angels announced to the shepherds.

We experience real peace now when we offer the peace of God to each other.