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## **Peace By The Cross**

*Colossians 1:20*

*(20) And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

### **Intro**

Everyone wants peace.  
Everyone desires it.  
People March for it.  
Sing for it  
And even go to war for it.  
Yet it is illusive.

So what is peace and how do I get peace?

### **No peace**

Let me start by saying there is no peace as long as sin is unforgiven.

And there can be no perfect peace so long as impurities remain to act as impediments to the flow of peace in our life

Peace is not a substance in and of itself.

But rather a sequence in a chain of experiences

What starts as the pardon found in the cross of Christ and the resulting purity in the Cross of Christ?

Leads to the ultimate peace that can only manifest as the peace of the Cross of Christ.

All three of these are tied together; all three of these flow together

## **The need for Peace**

*Romans 8:7*

*(7) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*

The need for peace in the heart of a man is created because man is out of harmony with God.

The bible says that fallen Man's default setting concerning God is one of hostility.

His mind is against God  
He is hostile toward God.

Man does not want to talk about the things of God. Man is out of harmony with God on all levels. Be it physical, spiritual or emotional.

Man is at best fearful, like Adam in the garden, or at worst, indifferent.

The reason for this state is because of sin.

Find me someone fearful of God & you have located a sinner. You have located someone out of harmony with God.

You see that is what it means to be a sinner – it means to be out of relationship, out of harmony with God.

Sin cuts a man off from God.  
Sin blinds their vision - they cannot see God.  
Sin deadens emotion so they cannot love God.  
It perverts their attitude so they cannot Obey God.

Sin prevents man from finding his created purpose - namely to love God & enjoy Him forever.

A sinful man according to Paul in Romans cannot submit to God, he is always fighting and warring against all that is God.

His mind cannot think God's thoughts.  
His emotions cannot feel God's love.  
His body is not given to God's service.  
He cannot do God's will.

### **There is an affect of sin on creation**

The apostle Paul is writing to the Colossians about the wonders of Christ and his impact on creation.

He speaks of Christ being the first-born of all creation.  
Of all things being reconciled in Christ.  
All things created by Him.  
All things held together because of Him.  
All things everywhere reconciled back to him.

You see you and I are a part of this creation that Paul is writing about.

Now think about this

If we are reconciled to creation through the death of Christ, therefore it means that outside of our relationship with Christ we are out of harmony with all of creation.

So not only has sin affected our relationship with God, but it also affects our relationship with the earth and each other.

We are out of harmony with God and we are out of harmony with all that He has created.

The man at peace with God is a man reconciled with creation.

Before I was saved, the earth was a tool that I used, an object to be abused.

My body was a tool to be used, an object to be abused.

Other people were a tool to be used, an object to be abused.

But know in salvation, I am reconciled with all of God's creation.

I am one with all that He has made.

The earth is important to me, do I worship the earth, no, but I love it and I am called to steward it.

Do I worship my flesh or other people? No?  
But I love and care for them. They are important to me.

### **There is an effect of sin upon ourselves**

The greatest affect of sin is concerning ourselves.

The man who is out of harmony with God is out of harmony with himself.

He has no inner peace.  
He has no inner calm.  
He is always struggling, fighting, contending with himself.

The man, who has no Peace with God, has no peace with creation, has no peace with others, and has no peace with himself.

If you banish Christ from your life through sin, you lose your peace.

You disintegrate your own personality. It affects your very soul and very being.

Why? How does this take place?

Because you are out of harmony with God.

A man sits at home and engages in sin late at night on a computer, and people start "to say what's Wrong" what has gotten into you. Why are you acting this way?

People distance themselves from him, they don't want to be around him.

Why?

No one knows. He has told no one, no one has seen him.... But they all can tell. He is out of harmony with himself, he has defiled himself, and he is out of harmony with God.

Bitterness and turmoil we wear like signs in our souls. We get offended and we are out of harmony with God.

A woman starts an emotional affair via email.

The husband & the kids just know. They don't know the specifics but they feel something is wrong.

They know she has stopped loving them

They know something is wrong

How... ?

She has lost her peace,

She is out of harmony with the world around her.

She is tense, she screams.

All of creation is affected because she is out of harmony with all that is around her.

You see the Cross not only pardons you,

The Cross Not only gives you purity from the dead works that clutter up our lives,

But the Cross gives us the only form of peace available to us this side of heaven.

There is no peace available to Man outside of Jesus Christ.

World peace will never be outside of Jesus Christ.

Friend save your breath praying for world peace.  
Pray that the Prince of peace would come and make manifest himself to the world.

I am not trying to be facetious or mean spirited here.

But outside of man's reconciliation with God there is no hope of peace for us.

If man is not reconciled with God, he will never be reconciled with each other.

If man is not reconciled with God, he will not be reconciled with creation.

If man is not reconciled with God, he will not be reconciled with himself.

This is the central issue concerning all of life.

It is the third wonder of the cross that we have considered these last few weeks.

It is a fruit we have to see born in our life.

I know some who have been saved, who have been cleansed but still do not have peace. Their life is in shambles and turmoil.

### **Three types of peace.**

There are three phrases in the New Testament that deal with the peace between God and man.

*Romans 5:1*

*5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Galatians 1:3*

*3 Grace to you and **peace from God** our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,*

*Philippians 4:7*

*7 And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

"Peace with God,"  
"Peace from God,"  
"The peace of God."

### **Peace with God,**

Friend I have sinned,  
I am afraid of God,  
I am fearful of the consequences of my life, my words, and my actions.

But I come to Him,  
I humble myself,  
I present myself to Him by way of the Cross.

All my sin has been put away  
All that has held me back; I am now free of,  
All that has interfered, no longer does.

I am at peace with Him,  
I am at one with Him,  
He who holds the universe in the palm of His hands, now again holds my heart in His hand.

I have been restored and I am in right relationship with God.  
That is peace with God!

## **Peace from God.**

You have to have peace with God, before you can experience peace FROM God.

I can claim the pardon of the cross.

I can claim the purity of the cross.

And now my soul floods with the *peace of the cross* that comes from God.

I now can and should be bearing the fruit of peace. A peace beyond understanding, a peace not of this world.

I am not fearful  
I am in harmony with my God again.  
I am at peace.

## **The Peace of God**

Not merely peace with God, and peace from God, but "the peace of God."

What is God's peace?

It is the peace of His omniscience,  
The peace of His omnipotence,  
The peace of His omnipresence.

Ask yourself this question: What robs us of peace in the small affairs of life?

Why do we get depressed?  
Why do we get stressed?  
Why are we fearful for our children and our loved ones?

Why?

Because of my limitations.

I cannot see the end, of a situation and I am afraid.

I do not know how my marriage will work out

I cannot be where I want to be to protect them and my heart is stressed and restless.

I cannot do what ought to be done, and panic seizes me.

I feel out of control

I feel uncertain and scared

I don't know what my future holds, if I can pay the bills.

BUT.....

God sees the end from the beginning,

God is always where He is needed.

God is always equal to the demand that is made on Him

The perfect peace of God is the peace offered by way of the cross to the child of God.

Now, I cannot see the end from the beginning, but I know He can so I am free.

Now I cannot be everywhere at once, but I know He can.

I cannot stand beside my son and protect him as he goes to war, but I know God can.

I cannot be with my child as they go off to college, but I know God can. Think of the importance!

Distance is annihilated

Power is perpetual, and the things I cannot do, I can do in Him and through Him.

The man who is at **peace with God**

enters into the **peace from God,**

for he has found his way, into harmony with the order of the universe and experiences the **peace of God.**

That my friend is the peace of the cross.

### **Altar call**

Some of you struggle with peace because you are trying to be God, instead of running to God

Some of you struggle with peace because you allow impunity to stay and settle in the corners of your soul like dust in a room.

Some of you carry around burdens that are not yours to bear.

You are not called to be burden bearer of your child, but the mother and father of your child.

You lack peace because you are so busy trying to be God; He has no opportunity to be it Himself!!

Tonight, do you need?

1. Peace with God
2. Peace from God
3. The peace of God