

#8: "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

Have you ever noticed the changes that occur when there is no peace?

- Imagine getting into an argument with your spouse first thing in the morning (traffic seems slower, boss seems more irritating, the guy in the cubicle next to you seems to be pounding the keyboard with a more irritating rhythm...)
- Or getting into an argument with your parents on your way to school...
- Relational unrest, atmospheric unrest, timidity or hostility, it changes your mood...

Review:

RIGHTEOUSNESS (Of God): *God's perfect relationship with right and wrong.*

JUSTIFICATION: *God declaring us righteous, even though we are not.*

SANCTIFICATION: *The real-life experience by which we become more and more righteous.*

GRACE: *God's undeserved favour.*

Today:

PEACE: The new reality where there is no hostility between God and man.

Romans 5:1

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

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE ACTUAL GOSPEL: "Justification makes peace with God a reality"

Wartime vs. Peace-time

- Language of the bible: enemies, rebels, haters become children, heirs, friends.
- In a time of war there is unrest, displeasure... fear, danger.
- In a time of peace there is no fear, there is no animosity, relations are friendly.
 - o These are realities in which people live depending on the time their nation is in... similarly, **the peace justification creates with God is a reality we live in.** It is a different environment, relationship and reality than when we were enemies of him.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PEACE WITH GOD

1) It is two-sided.

- ➔ Peace requires something to happen both on our end, and on God's.
- ➔ Peace is the objective reality between two parties – it requires two people. Namely God and man.
 - From God's end there is the issue of our unrighteousness in the light of his holiness. (Which we explored in this series the week of JUSTIFICATION) – he devised a way to be both the just and the justifier (or righteous and the righteousifier)
 - From our end there must be the acknowledgement that all is NOT well between us and God. Because of the blindness of sin and our being conformed to the world we imagine all is well toward us from God's end and we have the freedom to either choose God or not, but we picture him as a loving teddy bear waiting with arms open.

Martin Lloyd-Jones: "We are ignorant of God. We have conjured up a god out of our own imaginations, we have projected our own thoughts, and we have thought that that is God. The moment we realize the truth about God we are troubled and disturbed and our natural enmity to Him reveals itself. That is what happens to many people who have always thought that they were

Christians, and have always been religious and godly. They suddenly awaken to the fact that the God whom they thought they were worshipping is not God at all, not the God revealed in the Bible, not the God who has revealed from heaven His wrath against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. The moment they see that, they hate God, they are no longer at peace with Him. They had a false peace arising out of their own imaginations, but they were not at peace with God.”

- Peace with God is not possible on our end because we are afraid of the very idea of a God who exists.

2) It gives us access to God and his provisions.

Romans 5:2

*Through him we have also **obtained access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Access includes:

- The power of the Holy Spirit for sanctification.

Romans 15:15 - *"Grace has been given to me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."*

- The ability to pray and have our prayers heard.

Philippians 4:6-7 - *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

- The comfort of the Holy Spirit for difficulty...

2 Cor. 1:3-4 - *³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

ACCESS TO:

- The Holy Spirit's power to preserve. Joy unspeakable. Rest for your souls.

Ultimately Peace with God changes our standing before him... his wrath and anger is turned to favour and love.

What to SAY about PEACE:

"Peace with God is an even bigger deal than peace on earth."

- Everyone says they want world peace, they want wars to end and peace to reign
- But peace will never reign on the earth until it reigns in the hearts of men.
- Enmity with our creator creates a heart that is full of strife.

Romans 5:6-11

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we

have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is no small matter – Have you ever looked up at the night sky? 300+ billion stars in the milky way - the disk-shaped galaxy we live in is about 100,000 light years across (about six hundred thousand trillion miles) and 2,000 light years thick. Our sun will take about 200,000 years to make a circuit... he spoke this into existence with a mere sentence: “LET THERE BE”

- Being at odds with a God of this power is no small matter.
- It is in fact a very BIG matter that God has done all the work to reconcile us.

DON RICHARDSON – Missionary, author of “The Peace Child”

- Story of his family among the Savi people. (Peace Child)

What to Do with our New PEACE

Let it rule your heart and mind.

Romans 5:3-5

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

The new reality we live in changes how we respond to difficult circumstances, difficult people, unexpected disasters, bad news, slow lines at Starbucks, family that's hard to love.

- Romans 8:28 now kicks into gear and we can trust a sovereign God to be working things out for our good... therefore difficulty takes on meaning, purpose and design.