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Based on message by: Dr. Stanley W. Reeder,
Westminster Church of the Nazarene, Westminster, Colorado

Extreme Makeover: Spirit Edition **(part 4) - PEACE**

Turn to: Gal. 5:19-26 – p. 1132

I want to read this text to anchor us back into this series.

[**Click here for the notes that were in the bulletin.**](#)

INTRODUCTION:

A little guy is seated next to a big guy at a bar and asks his name.

The big guy says, “They call me Tex.”

“Oh, you must be from Texas.”

“Nope. I’m from Louisiana.”

“Hmmm, then why do they call you Tex?”

The big guys looks down at the little guy and says, “You wanna try callin’ me Louise?”

Sometimes it is best to keep the peace... it’s easier.

But I want to talk to you today about being a **peacemaker**, not a peace keeper.

Three Experiences of Peace for the Believer:

1. Peace with God - A spiritual experience.

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

-Romans 5:1

Our hearts are restless, O God, until they find their rest in Thee.

St. Augustine (4th Century Theologian)

2. Peace of God - An emotional experience.

This is the gift that God has for every one who knows him . . . it can only be blocked by disobedience.

I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a

river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

-Isaiah 48.17-18

This is a peace that is good for life and death . . .

A sign on a hospital bulletin board read: “Research shows that the first five minutes of life can be most risky.” Penciled underneath was this anonymous postscript: “The last five minutes ain’t so hot either.”

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus -Philippians 4.6-7

A peace that transcends all understanding is a peace that only God has the power to give, it’s a peace that the world cannot take away; it will change your life. Peace in the midst of turmoil and trouble; peace in the midst of sickness; peace in the midst of disaster; peace when there’s no reason to have peace – is either insanity or the work of Almighty God in our lives. You may disagree, but I think I’m kind of normal (sort of) and when there is peace that *transcends all understanding* in my life, I know it is the peace of God.

3. Peace from God - A relational experience.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men -Luke 2:14.

For the Christian, this is the most difficult peace to have. It is so easy to, one small step at a time, let this peace slip away. **When it does – no one wins!** I showed this video from “Malcolm in the Middle” recently and was going to just refer to it, but I love it and figured I would just show it again. It demonstrates so well how our peace can easily slip away ...

SHOW VIDEO CLIP OF PARKING LOT RAGE

It is tough to turn the other cheek and walk the extra mile. How do we keep a *door ding* from turning into a *demolition derby*? Let’s look at the Scripture. Of all the fruit of the spirit peace is the most broadly spoken of in the Bible. All but 6 of the 66 books in the Bible; all but 1 of the 27 New Testament Books, speak of peace.

HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER:

P lan a peace conference (Matthew 5.23-24).

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. -Matthew 5.23-24

Some people are hard to have peace with. I love the story about the Englishman who was on a train sitting between two ladies who were not at peace; they were arguing about the window. One lady wanted the window up or she said that she would die of pneumonia. The other lady wanted the window down or she said that she would die of a heat stroke.

The poor man is right in the middle of this and the ladies are reaching over him to put the window up and down and up and down. Finally they call the conductor. The conductor had no idea how to solve the problem . . . he just shrugged his shoulders. Finally the men said: ***I have an idea. Let's put the window up and kill one, then put the window down and kill the other, then we can all have peace.***

Empathize with the feelings of the other (Philippians 2:4-5).

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. -Philippians 2:4-5

We are so quick to close down on others once they have hurt us. One of the greatest truths wrapped up in a four short words has helped me to remain open to others and to look for their hurts and fears and empathize with them. The phrase is this:

Hurting people, hurt people.

If someone is hurting you, it is likely because they are hurting.

Attack the problem not the person (Ephesians 4:29-32).

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. -Ephesians 4:31-32

George Bernard Shaw, the famous playwright, sent Winston Churchill two tickets to the opening of his play, Saint Joan, with a note: "One for yourself and one for a friend – **if you have one.**" Churchill replied that he regretted being unable to attend the opening, but asked if it would be possible to have tickets for the second night – "**If there is one.**"

When attacked – it is so natural to attack that person back. As long as we are still in personal conflict – as long as there is still the presence of anger and bitterness in our hearts – the PEACE conference will yield no positive result. How do we get out of the cycle of anger and personal attacks; how do we get our focus on a solution to the problem?

Four R's for dealing with conflict:

1. **R** emove yourself from the situation.
2. **R** emember your worth to God.
3. **R** epent of your sin. What sin? It was that other person that did the mean thing to me. My anger betrays that I have allowed that person to judge my self worth. I have taken my life out of God's hands and put it in their hands to be my judge and I have accepted their evaluation. My angry reaction reveals that I am taking the control from God's hands and putting it into my own. "**Vengeance is mine," says the Lord, "I will repay."**
4. **R** e-assert . Once you are free of anger, malice, desire for brawling, then you are ready

to attack the problem and not the person.

When you go through the 4 R's you'll find the truth in the little phrase. . . .

Conflict is the door to intimacy

It is in conflict that we begin to dig and settle issues and have a heart to heart discussion. The end result is that we begin to understand each other.

Five Foundations for Fare Fighting: (5 Cs one should Never do when arguing)

1. **Never C~~o~~mpare** . Why can't you be like Joe's wife. Why can't you be like my first wife.
2. **Never C~~o~~ndemn** . Are you using words like, "you should, you must, you ought, it is all your fault?" In conflict, it is never a good idea to start with the word "you".
3. **Never C~~o~~mmand** . Respect the other person's autonomy and adulthood.
4. **Never C~~o~~ndescend** . . . don't belittle or ridicule or play psychologist by telling them what their problem is. "You know what your problem is? . . ."
5. **Never C~~o~~ntradict** . . . let the other have his turn and don't interrupt.

C~~o~~-operate as much as possible (Romans 12.18). (Our key verse for this study).

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. -Romans 12:18

Most relationships do not end in divorce because of adultery, alcoholism, money, incompatibility, etc. Most marriages end because of inflexibility. One becomes unbending and will not move in his or her direction any longer. They become inflexible.

So called 'incompatibility' is a myth invented by jurists in order to plead for divorce. It is likewise just a common excuse that people use just to hide their own failings. Misunderstandings and mistakes can be corrected where there is a willingness to do so, the problem is a lack of complete frankness and flexibility. -Dr. Paul Tournier

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

-Reinhold Niebuhr (American Theologian)

God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, and the wisdom to know...it's me!

-John Miller (QBQ, p 79)

You can only change yourself so look for the places where you can cooperate and stay flexible.

He who remains flexible does not get all bent out of shape

E~~m~~phasize reconciliation, not resolution (1 Corinthians 5.18-20).

You may not resolve every conflict perfectly – because you are not perfect.

Husband: “What do you love most about me, my natural good looks or my keen intellect?”

Wife: “Your sense of humor.”

A man is a person who, if a woman says, “never mind, I’ll do it myself,” lets her.

A woman is a person who, if she says to a man, “Never mind, I’ll do it myself,” and he lets her, gets mad.

A man is a person who, if a woman says to him, “Never mind, I’ll do it myself,” and he lets her and she gets mad, says, “Now what are you mad about?”

A woman is a person who, if she says to a man, “Never mind, I’ll do it myself,” and he lets her, and she gets mad, and he says, “Now what are you mad about?” says, “If you don’t know why I’m mad at you, I’m not going to tell you!”

To reconcile means to re-establish relationship. To find resolution means to resolve every issue.

If you’ll believe this, it will save you a lot of struggle in this world. You will likely not have complete resolution in many conflicts and differences you have with others. The key is not to resolve every issue and get that other person to see it all your way or just to settle that you have to see it all their way. But by the grace of God you can find reconciliation even without complete resolution.

You can agree to disagree!!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. . . . he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors. -1 Corinthians 5.18-20

We will not always be able to resolve all the issues . . . but we can exercise the ministry of reconciliation, we can always be Christ’s ambassadors by working toward reconciliation, toward loving one another.

APPLICATION:

Summary:

Plan a peace conference

Empathize with others’ feelings

Attack problems, not people

Cooperate as much as possible

Emphasize reconciliation – not just resolution.

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy Peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen. -St Francis of Assisi (13th Century Monk)