

Sermon Series: Pursuing Godliness

Sermon Title: A Godly Person is a Peaceful Person

August 25, 2019

Today's Scripture: Colossians 3:14–15 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (ESV)

Introduction: Cornerstone Bikers pic.

Picture of VE day in NYC Peace posters everywhere. But did the war to end all wars bring peace to this planet? Our world is divided more than ever and so is our nation. Just look at the violence cause by Antifa, which should be labeled a terrorist organization. SO is it possible to have a nation at peace? Only if Christians bring it about through their influence. We Christians are commanded to live out the peace we have before others. We are to pray for our national leaders . . .

1 Timothy 2:1–4 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (ESV)

But if we Christians don't have peace how can we expect anyone else to have peace. Let's look at what takes away our peace and how we can overcome what I call peace disruptors.

Main point: A godly person is one who is becoming so aware of God's steadfast and undeserved love for us and his sovereign goodwill that his heart is at rest with undisturbed peace.

Peace Disruptor #1 – Anger towards Pagans

- New studies have shown that within 2 hours of an angry outburst, the chances of a heart attack skyrocket? Anger is such a destructive force.
- We get angry over what? We get angry because something we love is threatened. This could be good, but is usually bad. Why? Because we love ourselves too much. You weren't appreciated for the job you did? Anger. You got cut off in traffic and that person somehow thought he was better than you? Anger. The congresswoman from Georgia who had 20 items in her cart in a 10 item line and the man behind her confronted her? It made national news. Anger. Your spouse failed to show you the kind of affection you deserve the very moment you felt it should have been shown? Anger. You heard a piece of gossip about you at the office? Anger.

Peace Restorer: Love.

- Stop loving yourself so much and start loving others more. Romans 8:6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (ESV)
- Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (ESV)
- Hebrews 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (ESV)

Peace Disruptor #2 – Irritation towards people in the Family of God

- The Corinthian Church was a mess. Factions. Challenges to higher authorities like the apostles. Incest and sexual immorality being unaddressed. Lawsuits against fellow believers. Rampant divorce. Continuing worship at the idol temples. Disorderly worship. Class snobbery.
- But Corinth wasn't the only church with obnoxious people, then or now. Cliques remain as one of the most offensive problems in the church. Power brokers make sure that money talks. Some people never shut up when they should know better.

Peace Restorer: Love

- Paul had to write an entire chapter on love to get the church to stop fighting.
- Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)
- Romans 14:19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. (ESV)
- 1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.
- 2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (ESV)
- Ephesians 4:2–3 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (ESV)
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. (ESV)
- James 3:13–18 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (ESV)

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Peace Disruptor #3 – Fear

1. Fear of the Future
2. Fear of God's wrath against our sin

Peace Restorer: Love

1. Loving God's promises of provision and His fatherly care.

Philippians 4:5–7 The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Colossians 3:15–17 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (ESV)

2. Loving God's Saving Grace Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)