

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Marty Grubbs, Senior Pastor



This week, Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs, continued in our series, *Fruit of the Spirit*, focusing on peace. As followers of Jesus we have been gifted the Holy Spirit, and when we abide in him, we have peace, and we can be peacemakers. Peace is bigger than the absence of conflict or war. In the Bible, peace is defined this way:

Peace: [Hebrew שָׁלוֹם / *šālôm* / *sha-lom*] is one of the most important words in the Old Testament. In addition to “peace,” this word can be translated as “wholeness, prosperity, well-being, health, completeness, safety.” Also, peace with God.

This peace is available to anyone, but we can only get this peace by knowing Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

NUMBERS 6:22-26

The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

“The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.””

JOHN 14:23-27

Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

JOHN 14:23-27 MSG

“Because a loveless world,” said Jesus, “is a sightless world. **If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him**—we’ll move right into the neighborhood! **Not loving me means not keeping my words.** The message you are hearing isn’t mine. It’s the message of the Father who sent me.

“I’m telling you these things while I’m still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. **I’m leaving you well and whole. That’s my parting gift to you. Peace. I don’t leave you the way you’re used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don’t be upset. Don’t be distraught.**” (*Emphasis added*)

MATTHEW 5:9 NIV

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Marty's message?
2. Read the Scripture above. How does the world define peace? How does that differ from what you learn in the Bible passages?
3. Reflect on your typical day, would you say you have "the peace of Christ"? If not, what steals your peace?
4. Have you ever felt the peace of God in a situation where it didn't make sense in the natural world?
5. Read Matthew 5:9. Do you find yourself disrupting the peace in situations at home? At the office? Or in other circumstances? Or are you a peacemaker?
6. Is there someone in your life (maybe in your group) who seems to reflect the gift of peace? How so?
7. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Pray to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Thank him for reconciling you to the Father and making peace possible. Pray for the biblical gift of peace—wholeness, completeness, well-being, safety—to be yours through the grace of the Holy Spirit.