In Step
Peace

MAY 14, 2023

A lot of us try to have a "when-then" peace—when THIS finally happens, THEN I'll have peace. This approach doesn't work too well. How can we learn to have a here-and-now peace, no matter what's going on?

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- How's your heart?
- God's promise to those who follow him is peace.
- Myth—peace is the absence of anything that causes stress.
- Most of our stress sources fall into one of these buckets—place, problem, or person.
- If we think that removing anything that causes stress will bring us peace, we'll never know peace.
- Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.| John 14, v.27
- I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. | John 14, v.27
- The world gives a "when-then" kind of peace. "When X finally happens, THEN I'll have peace."
- God offers a here-and-now peace that comes because of his presence.
- Me + God's presence = peace
- God's presence is like light to a dark room. It doesn't take all of your problems away; it does change how you walk.
- Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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, vv.6-7
- The Hebrew word for peace is shalom, or wholeness and completeness. You have peace because you're not missing anything.
- When you have peace with God, you have peace with others and yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are your top stressors you'd like to remove from your life if you could?
2. Is it possible to have peace even when things are going wrong? Have you experienced this?
3. Being connected to God's presence produces lasting peace. What helps you to connect with God's presence? What gets in the way of that?
4. Peace with God produces peace with others and peace with yourself—how would you rate the peace you have with others and yourself right now? What factors have contributed to that?