



“Jesus as Peacemaker”

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The peace of Christ is one that rubs up against our expectations of the peace we often want to imagine.

UNLIKELY PEACE

- The peace of Christ is an invitation to look toward the Cross Life, for it's this very peace that affirms for us that we are not weighed down by the darkness of this world.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. 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.

Philippians 4:4–7 ESV

- We trust that peace is not ours to _____ or _____.
- Peace surrounds the inbreaking of God's promise of our salvation.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Luke 2:14–18 ESV

- The peace of Christ finds us and meets us in our _____.

RADICAL PEACE

- In Christ, God reveals that peace is both _____ and _____.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,*

to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:14–21 NIV

- Peace is not about a rest from obligation, but a rest from the current state.
- The peace of Christ is _____.
- When we welcome the peace of Christ, we press against _____ of our life as his disciples.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.”

Matthew 10:34–36 NRSV

- The peace of Christ _____ what we find most comfortable.

- The peace of Christ will press us toward people who have harmed us in some way or another.

ENDURING PEACE

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

John 14:25–27 NRSV

- Peace is a _____ that only Jesus can provide us.
- The peace that only Jesus can provide comes to full fruition when the bounds of this world no longer weigh us down.
- The peace of Christ is the _____ that our God is for us.

Answer key

- We trust that peace is not ours to **DEFINE** or **UNDERSTAND**.
- The peace of Christ finds us and meets us in our **FEARS**.
- In Christ, God reveals that peace is both **NOW** and **TO COME**.
- The peace of Christ is **PROPHETIC**.
- When we welcome the peace of Christ, we press against **IGNORANCE** of our life as his disciples.
- The peace of Christ **UNSETTLES** what we find most comfortable.
- Peace is a **GIFT** that only Jesus can provide us.
- The peace of Christ is the **ASSURANCE** that our God is for us.