

## *Providing peace with God, peace with ourselves and peace with others*

1. **I love the ocean, but I fear the ocean...**
    - a. I heard stories of the \$ guys would make working the fishing boats in Alaska...
    - b. but I also heard of the storms on the Bearing Sea... water so cold you only survive 7 min.
    - c. The last place I would want to be is caught in a storm on the bering sea...
  2. **It also means that I completely understand the fear of the disciples caught in a maelstrom on sea of Galilee... when Jesus was asleep in the boat (Mk 4:35–41)**
    - a. The Prince of Peace Told the Stormy Sea, 'Peace, Be Still'...  
and the Wind ceased and there was a Great Calm!
  3. **Jesus is called The Price of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)**
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## **I. THE NEED FOR PEACE**

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### **A. CONFLICT BETWEEN PEOPLE**

1. **Since sin first entered the world there has been Conflict Everywhere...**
  - a) You can't check the news for 5 min without hearing of domestic abuse, children neglected, a shooting or abduction, missing persons cases.
  - b) The F.B.I reports 2020 had the biggest spike in murders in American history —30%. That's 5,000 more Americans murdered in 2020 than yr before
  - c) By Comparison, the violent year of **1968 had a 12% increase in murders 2020 had a 30% increase** (Heritage Foundation 10/7/21)
2. **It spills into open conflict between populations and political groups...**

Constant Lying, Sabotage, Character Assassination, Political Assassination...
3. **It spills into open conflict between nations...**

Wars and Rumors of Wars, Hatred and Strife, Conflict and Confusion.
4. **But it's NOT Just in the NEWS — NOT Just in Politics or Geo-Politics...**

**IT'S IN OUR OWN HOMES AND MARRIAGES!**

  - a) Conflict Over Money and Finances...
  - b) Conflict Over Children
  - c) Conflict Over Chores... Family Responsibilities... and Pressure from Work
  - d) Conflict Over Relatives... Conflict over Personalities....
  - e) Conflict over Misunderstanding... Disagreements... Unrealistic Expectations
  - f) Conflict Over Time, Entertainment, over Religious Faith and Commitment to God
  - g) Conflicts on Social Media, Conflicts Between Neighbors

### **B. CONFLICT WITHIN OURSELF**

1. **Conflict is not just in our cities or our homes—it is WITHIN US!**

**Conflict in our own heart**

  - a) Guilt, Shame, Regret — over the sins and mistakes of our past...

- b) Conflict of Broken Relationships and hurt feelings
- c) Between fathers & sons... mothers & daughters... Father-in-laws & Mother-in-laws
- d) failed relationships, failed families, failed marriages

**2. The Anger, resentment, bitterness of how others treated us...**

**or how our life did not turn out the way we wanted or expected**

- a) A Huge Spike in Depression and Anxiety—especially among Teens...
- b) Social Media Peer Pressure,... Online Isolation... Online Bullying...
- c) FACEBOOK ENVY, FEAR OF MISSING OUT, Instagram cult of beauty...

**C. CONFLICT BETWEEN OURSELF AND GOD**

**1. Even in times of Peace there is war... because without God ruling the throne of our heart there is no peace (James 4:1-4)**

**2. Even the ancient philosophers and thinkers recognized this...<sup>1</sup>**

- a) **The Greek satirist, Lucian** wrote: ‘All the evils which come upon man—revolutions and wars, stratagems and slaughters—spring from desire. All these things have as their fountain-head the desire for more.’
- b) **Plato** writes: ‘The sole cause of wars and revolutions and battles is nothing other than the body and its desires.’
- c) **Cicero**, the Roman orator, writes: ‘It is insatiable desires which overturn not only individual men, but whole families, and which even bring down the state. From desires there spring hatred, schisms, discords, seditions and wars.’

**3. Worldly, Selfish People Are Never Happy—and Never WILL be Happy... Because they are driven by an insatiable desire for more**

*‘No One Is Free Who is a Slave To their Own Flesh’ (Seneca)*

**4. The Flesh fights against the spirit—the Spirit is fighting against God**

**II. THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

**A. PEACE WITH GOD**

**1. We Were Enemies of God—because of our sin & rebellion against Him**

- a) **We Were under the Penalty and Condemnation of Sin**

**2. But God Did Something So Amazing that No One Else Could Do...**

- a) God allowed His Holy wrath against sin to be poured out onto His Son on the cross so you won't face His wrath on Judgement Day (**Romans 5:6-10**)

**3. So Those With Faith enough to Trust and Obey—Can Have Peace with God through Jesus Christ! (5:1-2)**

**B. PEACE WITHIN OURSELF**

**1. Now There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ (Rom 8:1)**

- a) That word NO Means NONE...
- b) Not a fraction, Not a molecule... Not a hint of condemnation

<sup>1</sup> William Barclay, James 4:1-4, quotes

2. **We Stand Before God Forgiven, Sanctified, Pure because of His blood**
  - a) The Guilt, the Shame, the Regret... The Broken Relationships...  
The Fear, the Anxiety, the Worry
  - b) Are Replaced with Forgiveness by Grace
3. **We Are Now Free to Live by the Spirit as opposed to the flesh (Rom 8:5–6)**

### **C. PEACE WITH OTHERS**

1. **The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of Peace! (Ephesians 2:12–15)**
  - a) Because God has forgiveness us of our sins
  - b) Breaking Down the Walls and Trenches and Barbed Wire of our Hearts
  - c) And Making us a Kingdom of Priests who are now at peace!
2. **We Are to be Peace Makers—Not Trouble Makers!**
  - a) Ambassadors of Peace, sharing the Peace of Christ w/ World! (Romans 12:14–18)

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## **III. THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE**

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### **A. WE HAVE A PEACE THE WORLD DOES NOT HAVE (Jn 14:27)**

1. **The World Tries to Sell You Peace but it's a counterfeit peace!**
  - a) I notice that the 24/7 News Media Gets us All Jacked Up on Anxiety over  
BREAKING NEWS: the Sky is Falling!!!...
  - b) Then They Advertise Products for the Anxiety They Are Shooting Into Your Veins!
2. **But True Peace is only available through Jesus Christ...**
3. **Jesus is the Prince of Peace who has overcome the world! (John 16:33)**

### **B. WE HAVE A PEACE THE WORLD DOESN'T UNDERSTAND— A PEACE THAT SURPASSES UNDERSTANDING (Phil 4:6-7)**

1. **How do You Describe Something indescribable?**

How do you understand something beyond understanding?
2. **Even if you can't describe it, or understand it—you can EXPERIENCE It**
3. **Jesus experienced acute anxiety in the garden—sweat as drops of blood**
4. **He fell to His knees praying intensely 3x the cup of suffering could pass**
5. **But He Submitted to the Will of His Father—and from that point forward  
Jesus was the Calm in the center of the Storm**

### **C. A PEACE THAT GUARDS YOUR HEART AND MIND THROUGH JESUS**

1. **ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE IN CHRIST!**
  - a) Our Joy... Our Peace... Our Salvation... Our Eternal Home in Heaven
2. **We Are Never Alone... We Know Who Wins... We Know Who Provides...**
3. **We Know All Things Work Together for Good to those who love the Lord**
4. **We Know Nothing Can Separate Us From the Love of God in Christ Jesus**

## **CONCLUSION:**

**Let the Peace of God through Jesus Christ Rule In Your Heart (Jn 14:27)**