

The Heart Of Christmas: 2 of 3
“Peace”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
December 18, 2022

Big Idea: At the heart of Christmas, we find hope, peace, joy, and love in Jesus.

I pray that God, **the source of hope**, will fill you completely with **joy and peace because you trust in Him**. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13 (NLT2) Remember Verse**

The enemies of peace:

[] Worry [] Anger [] Control [] Procrastination [] Association [] Bitterness

We Can Have:

1. Personal Peace - By Becoming A Person Of Prayer

“**Don’t worry** about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you **need**, and **thank Him** for all He has done. Then you will experience **God’s peace**, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you **live in Christ Jesus**.” **Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT2)**

Prayer: _____

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. **Fix your thoughts** on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. **Keep putting into practice** all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.” **Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT2)**

Fix My Thoughts _____

Put Into Practice _____

2. Peace With Others - By Releasing Those Who Have Hurt Us Over To God

“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with **tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience**. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”

Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT2)

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.” **Romans 12:17 (NIV)**

“If it is possible, as far as it **depends on you**, live at peace with everyone.”
Romans 12:18 (NIV)

Healthy Boundaries

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but **leave room** for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." **Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)**

“Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.” **Titus 3:10 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Peace With God - By Accepting His Gift Of Salvation

“Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; He is **Christ the Lord**. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "**Glory to God** in the highest, and on earth **peace** to men on whom **His favor rests**." **Luke 2:11-14 (NIV)**

“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by **faith**, we have **peace** with God because of what **Jesus Christ** our Lord has **done for us**.” Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we **confidently and joyfully** look forward to sharing God’s glory.”
Romans 5:1-2 (NLT2)

Notes: _____

➤ Where am I needing **peace** this week?

To experience peace this Christmas, I will:

- Choose to become a person of prayer
- Release those who have hurt me over to God
- Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior

- I’m interested in a small group
- I’m interested in hosting a small group
- I’m interested in leading a small group

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

Big Idea: At the heart of Christmas, we find hope, peace, joy, and love in Jesus.

Icebreaker: Which is your biggest enemy of peace?

Worry Anger Control Procrastination Association Bitterness

God Wants Us To Have:

1. **Personal Peace By Becoming A Person Of Prayer And Worship**

Read Philippians 4:6-7

How often do you get anxious? Little? Sometimes? Often?

How can you pattern your prayer life to help reduce your worry?

How much time do you spend in praise and thanksgiving in your current prayer life?

Write a prayer about a current situation:

Read Philippians 4:8-9

What are some positive things I need to focus my mind on?

Fix My Thoughts _____

What can apply in my life today? _____

Put into Practice _____

2. Peace With Others By Releasing Those Who Have Hurt Us Over To God Read Colossians 3:12-13

How can applying kindness and gentleness help me to be more forgiving?

Read Romans 12:17-19

Read and discuss Life Application Study Bible Commentary:

[12:17](#) The commands in [verses 17-21](#) relate mainly to dealings with nonbelievers. When people do evil against us, we are **never** to **pay back evil for evil**, as much as we might like to (see also [1 Peter 3:9](#)). Instead, we are to **do things in such a way that everyone can see** we are **honorable** (see [1 Peter 2:11-12](#)). [12:18](#) Paul counsels believers to have as peaceful relations **as possible** with their unbelieving neighbors and associates. In a perfect world, all people could live peacefully together. Realistically this is impossible in our imperfect world. [12:19](#) Quoting from [Deuteronomy 32:35](#), Paul reminds us that though we may want to **avenge** ourselves, we must **leave that to God**. Refusing to take revenge avoids grudges and feuds. God will ensure that his just vengeance will be given. [12:20](#) The opposite of repaying with evil and taking revenge is caring for our **enemies**. Believers are not simply expected to abstain from evil; rather, they are expected to actively pursue opportunities to care for an enemy's needs. God invites us to observe our enemies and at the very points of weakness, where a counterattack of revenge might be most effective, we should mercifully meet that need. This will make them **ashamed** of their actions toward us.

How does "getting even" make things worse instead of better?

How does the wording, "as far as it depends on you" help you to have peace?

How well do you do at leaving room for God to work? Why?

Read Titus 3:10

Is there someone that you need to set a bigger boundary to protect your peace?

3. Peace with God By Accepting His Gift Of Salvation Read Luke 2:11-14

How do you acquire God's favor?

Read Romans 5:1-2

Am I still trying to earn God's acceptance and approval?

Am I living daily in a relationship with Jesus?

Have I placed my complete trust in Jesus for my salvation?

Pray Together:
