

Discuss this definition of peace: A calm assurance that overcomes chaos and hostility on the outside because Jesus is ruling on the inside.

Describe the chaos in your life right now!

1. Peace on earth is not possible until every person on earth has peace with God. (Luke 2:14)

How is God glorified by relationships that are filled with peace?

God commands peace among those who seek his pleasure. Those who seek God's pleasure invite God's peace. Are their things in your life that you know God is not pleased with?

List 5 things in your life that bring pleasure to God?

2. Peace with God is not possible until you are brought near by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:12-19)

Do you remember what it was like to be without God and without hope in this world? How did it feel?

How often do you meditate on the hostility of God that was poured out on Jesus on the cross?

To what degree are you "preaching peace" to those who are far off?

What can you do to be intentional about drawing near to those who are "far off"?

Are you confident you are a member of the household of God?

3. The peace of God is not possible until you let him rule your heart. (Colossians 3:15, Philippians 4:6-7)

Describe the last time you had an anxiety attack.

What robs your peace?

What do you do when you hear news that is troubling? Do you feed on sensational, negative news reports? What does that do for your peace?

Do you feed on the good news of the gospel? What affect does that have on your peace?

4. Peace with others is not possible until you are overwhelmed with the thought that God has pursued peace with you. (Hebrews 2:14)

We are quick to assign blame for relational conflict. The reality is those who have been overwhelmed with the fact that God has pursued peace with them are motivated to do everything possible to pursue peace with those they have offended and who have offended them.

In what relationships are you experiencing hostility?

Have you given up on pursuing peace with those who have offended you?

Additional Scripture

- Isaiah 26:3-4
- Romans 5:1
- Luke 12:51-53
- John 14:27
- Mark 4:39
- Matthew 5:9

