

Peace

Colossians 1:19-23

Main Idea

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, makes peace by the blood of his cross. This peace is vertical with God, horizontal with others, and will be consummated in a future, global peace.

Overview

Jesus, the Prince of Peace

- The “fullness of God” was pleased to dwell in Christ Jesus (1:19; 2:9)
 - Advent is about pondering Emmanuel, God with us (cf. Mt. 1:23)
 - Jesus is not mostly God or partly God, he is fully God
 - Jesus is not mostly human or partly human, he is fully human
- The Creator of all things (cf. 1:16) takes on the limitations of a created thing that he might bring peace

Why Do We Need A Prince of Peace

- Jesus is reconciling “all things:
 - That means apart from Jesus “all things” are not reconciled; they are broken
- To reconcile means to “make peace:
 - True peace is not just absence of harm/fighting, but the presence of harmony/flourishing
- The peace Jesus offers is multifaceted:
 - *Future, Global* – Jesus promises to restore the world back to the way it’s supposed to be
 - *Present, Personal* – Jesus lays his life down being separated from God that we might be reconciled to God
 - *Horizontal, Relational* – The “you” in verses 21-22 is plural (“you all”) pointing to the truth that reconciliation with God necessarily brings reconciliation with others (cf. 3:15; Eph. 4:3; 1 John 4:20; Romans 12:18)

How Does Jesus Act as the Prince of Peace?

- Both verse 20 and 22 tell us how Jesus makes peace – through this death on the cross
- Jesus was born in a cradle only to die on a cross. Yet the story doesn’t end there. Jesus rose again and is now seated at God’s right hand with a crown of glory.
- Jesus reconciles all things to God
 - Verse 20 – “reconcile all things to himself” (and he is in the presence of God)
 - Verse 22 – “[Jesus died] in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him [before God].”
- Notice that it says “he has reconciled” – that’s past tense; the reconciling work is done

Questions

Discussion Starter: *What Christmas traditions are your favorite? Why? Are there things you are doing this year to intentionally set your heart and mind upon Christ this Advent season?*

1. Read Colossians 1:16-23. Why is it important that Jesus be fully God? Fully Human? What happens if you lose either his humanity or deity?
2. Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-7. Describe the circumstance/events surrounding Jesus’ birth. What’s surprising about this?

3. What does the birth of Christ – the fullness of God taking on bodily form – tell us about the nature of God/character of Christ? How could you use these truths to comfort those who have sinned and/or those who have been sinned against?
4. Colossians 1:20 says Jesus is making peace by the blood of his cross. Why is blood/the cross necessary for peace?
5. Why is it important to understand peace is not just the absence of harm/fighting but the presence of harmony/flourishing?
6. Discuss the various aspects of peace Jesus brings. Why are all of these important? Which is the most comforting? Which is the hardest for you to grasp?
 - a. Future, Global (cf. 1:20)
 - b. Present, Personal (cf. 1:21-22)
 - c. Horizontal, Relational (cf. 1:21-22; 3:15)

Accountability Question: *Where have you most enjoyed peace with God and/or with others? Are there areas where you need to pursue and/or offer peace?*