

Pursuing Peace

Insights from Hebrews 12:12-15
Pastor Bob Johnson, May 17th, 2020

The Reality of Peace:

(Matthew 12:14, John 5:18)

- We can't ...

The Question of Peace:

- Not ... Does everyone ...
- But ... Have I genuinely ...

The Keys to Peace:

(Matthew 5:38-39; 5:9, Romans 14:19; 12:18, Matthew 7:12)

- Avoid conforming to ...
- At times, put peace above ...
- Utilize the power of ... (Proverbs 15:1)

Having more peace at home:

(1 Corinthians 13:4-6, Proverbs 19:11)

- Avoid ...

Having more peace at church:

(Ephesians 4:3, Colossians 3:12-15, Matthew 7:1-5, Proverbs 26:17)

- Don't expect everyone to ...
- Don't try to fix ...

Having more peace at work and beyond:

(1 Cor 5:9-13, Titus 3:1-5, Romans 5:8-10; 12:19-21, 2 Timothy 2:24-28)

- Don't expect everyone to ...
- Treat antagonists ...

For a free audio or video copy of this message go to GracePointSD.com
and/or search Grace Point Church San Diego on your Podcast App

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our fifth week of this 11 week study of Hebrews 11-13. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in June.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). Even when we have to zoom! May our church family grow warmer together even through this social distancing season as we connect with each other through our phones and computers.

The good news is that we don't have to wait to be physically together to meet together, develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

Bob began this week's message talking about echo chambers. We can all choose to only listen to those we think agree with us or ... we can choose to widen who and what we reflect on.

How have you gotten out of your echo chamber lately and tried to listen to another point of view on something ... with an open mind? :)

In Hebrews 12:14 and other passages, we are encouraged to 'strive for peace with everyone'. Who does that include for you that you need some of God's wisdom and power to attempt?

Of the three general truths Bob shared about 'pursuing peace', which of the three would you like to reflect on more and see more progress in?

- Avoid conforming to lesser behavior
- At, put peace above fairness
- Utilize the power of gentleness

Read Proverbs 15:1. Related to the last of the three, when have you seen this actually work?

Quick Review:

Let's re-read the following passages related to the priority of pursuing peace.

Hebrews 12:14

Matthew 5:9

Romans 14:19

Romans 12:18

Matthew 7:12

From these passages and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, confused you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Toward the end of Sunday's message, three more specific areas were shared where we are called to make every effort to pursue peace with everyone.

What are some insights you can think of that would help you in your effort to live at peace with the people in each of the areas below.

Home and Family

Church Family

Work and Community

Digging Deeper:

In the Old Testament, Daniel and his three buddies are great examples of how to maintain convictions and still pursue peace with others.

In the first chapter of Daniel, Daniel had to figure out how to live at peace in the midst of a Babylonian culture that was not only vastly different than his own, but hostile to his faith. King Nebuchadnezzar's plan was to assimilate Daniel and his friends into the Babylonian culture, customs and religion.

Read Daniel 1 and reflect on what you notice about how Daniel and his friends responded to the pressure to conform and still strived toward maintaining peace with those around them.

In Daniel 3, three of Daniel's friends were faced with the kind of situation that could easily have caused them to lose their inner peace and doubt God's care for them.

They were told to either worship an idol or be thrown into a blazing furnace.

What can we learn about maintaining peace from their experience in Daniel 3:8-30?

What would you say to someone who wanted to experience the same kind of peace as these three guys?

Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Praying Up: :)

Before we wrap up our sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?