



BREAKING THE ICE

What's more peaceful to you, a beach with your favorite people or a house all to yourself?

What is the most peaceful place you have ever visited? What made it so peaceful?

MAIN CONTENT

The world needs a lot of things right now. After weeks or maybe months filled with fear and anxiety we all could use a little peace.

Over the last few months, many have tried to find peace with what the government says and does, but we can't find peace in our government. Our peace comes from a God who loves us and gives us His peace.

Read John 16:33

1. How does this scripture live out in your life? Where has peace replaced troubles?
2. In who or what do you tend to find peace?

As followers of Jesus, we find our peace in Him. Not in our country, government, our bank account or another person.

The idea of a government that everyone is pleased with is impossible. In fact, when Jesus walked the earth, the government was extremely corrupt. Everyone handled the government (Roman kingdom) differently.

Pastor Kevin talked about 3 different groups of people in the Roman kingdom: the Zealots - who fought against the kingdom (fight), the Essenes who withdrew or moved away from their problems (flight) and the Sadducees who compromised (appeased) because they didn't believe in the ways of Jesus.

3. When things get hard, which do you tend to do: fight, flight or appease? Why?

Jesus came to tell others about a new kingdom, the kingdom of God. This kingdom brings peace with God, from God and peace with others. When we walk with Jesus we have access to His kingdom.

Jesus taught us not to run away from the brokenness in this world and to not depend on earthly things to bring peace.

When we trust in Jesus we have peace with God. Our relationship with God has been restored through trusting Jesus as He cleansed us from our sins. Peace with God is objective. It's something we didn't have to earn, it's ours, it's a gift.

4. Do you find yourself trying to earn peace with God? How do you feel peace with God in your life?

The peace of God is subjective. We ask for it when things aren't going like we think they should be, when life throws us curveballs, or when the political climate gets really intense.

5. What are some times you have experienced the peace of God in your life?

Pastor Kevin said, "Peace is not the absence of negative thoughts, it's the presence of God." God can fill you with His spirit of peace over and over, as many times as you need it. We just need to call on Him.

6. Where do you need the peace of God in your life right now?

Read Isaiah 26:3.

When we keep our eyes and thoughts fixed on Jesus, He provides us peace.

7. Where do you need to replace your thoughts with thoughts of Jesus?

The last peace Pastor Kevin talked about was peace with others. Pastor Kevin told the story of a sweet woman who had dealt with hatred towards political parties and the governing officials. God pressed on her heart to confess and repent of those feelings.

When we repent for the anger and hate we have had towards others, God gives us peace with them. We may not agree with them but when we confess and repent God brings peace into our lives.

8. Is there anyone you need to repent to in order to have peace with them?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you God for the peace we receive when we follow your son Jesus. For the peace you give when we need it. Will you help us replace our anxious thoughts with thoughts of you? Will you convict us of the relationships where we need to repent and have peace with others? In your name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

This week take account of which peace you need in your life right now: peace with God, peace of God or peace with others. If you need to confess and repent take time to do that and pray for God to bring the peace you need this week.