
Sermon Notes

December 16, 2018

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Gift of Peace: Peace With Others

Romans 12:16-18, 2 Corinthians 13:11

No More War... No More Enmity

- ❖ To all who will believe in and depend upon Jesus to save them from their sin, God offers His gift of peace
 - a relationship with God is possible
 - God's peace is richer, fuller, and infinitely more meaningful than what the world calls peace
- ❖ God also offers us peace within ourselves
 - our internal "civil war" must be dealt with
 - Jesus makes it possible for our spirit, soul, and mind to all "pull" in the same direction
- ❖ Until we have peace with God and peace with ourselves, we cannot have peace with others
 - you cannot give away something you don't have
 - you can either be a peacemaker or a troublemaker

Live in Harmony

- ❖ Left to our own devices, we are incapable of living in harmony with others
 - sadly, Christ's followers have not always been known as people of peace
 - Jesus calls us to peacemaking (Matt 5:9, John 13:35)
 - how am I doing?
 - how are WE doing?
- ❖ *If possible...*
 - the Bible is realistic about this... peace with others is not always possible
 - "Truth cannot be bartered away or sacrificed just to maintain peace. Purity cannot be violated. Injustice cannot be condoned...." (James Montgomery Boice)
 - Jesus in Matthew 10:34-36, not peace but a sword
 - there are those who will never be willing to pursue peace
- ❖ Making peace with others is an especially important topic for us during the "holiday season"

- ❖ Romans 12:9-14 = love in action
 - don't love in a false, hypocritical fashion, let your love be genuine (not in words only... but in action)
 - our problem isn't that we don't understand this
 - our problem lies in actually doing what we are told
 - true love is discriminating
 - true love loves what is good
 - true love hates what is evil
- ❖ Serve God by serving others

EGR's

- ❖ Are there those who frustrate or aggravate you?
 - extra grace required!
 - do good for them
- ❖ Never seek revenge
 - no wiggle room here
 - what about my "rights"?
 - if you want to stand up for someone's rights, **stand up for someone ELSE'S rights**
- ❖ Let God settle the score in His time and in His way

- some things will never be settled this side of heaven
- never put yourself in the place of God
- it takes a lot of faith to commit yourself to God (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:7)
- ❖ Do you have anyone you need to be "ONE HEART" with this Christmas?
- ❖ *A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.* (James 3:18)

Personal Application

1. Are you aware of any ways in which your life does not match? Are you a peacemaker or a troublemaker? How can you tell? How would those closest to you answer this?
2. With whom do you struggle to live in harmony? After reading and thinking about Romans 12:9-18, what steps will you take to try to make peace with this person(s)? Continue to offer prayer for any with whom you have tried to make peace but who have rejected your efforts at reconciliation.
3. True love is discriminating. In what ways does your love for what is good and hatred for what is evil show through in your life?
4. Are you someone who is inclined to "stand up for your own rights"? After considering Romans 12:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 6:7, what, if any, changes to your thoughts and attitudes about this need to be made?
5. When you think of any who have hurt or are hurting you, are you prone to nursing "revenge fantasies"? Ask God to cleanse you of these unholy thoughts and show you a practical way in which you can do good to this person.