

Shalom Series
Peace with Creation & Others
1/20/24
Newport News

Opening

-Shalom is a deep sense of wellbeing and goodness that is anchored in Jesus!

- Regardless of **my circumstances**
- Still free to feel **my emotions**
- **My center** that calls to me (talk about always being able to hear Mom's voice)

This Series

-Until we are ready to accept the Biblical concept of "portion" we will never fully experience Shalom.

-So let's talk about how this concept of "portion" relates to the 4 primary relationships we all have in this life.

- 1. At peace with God - unknowable**
- 2. At peace with myself - unchangeable**
- 3. At peace with creation - undeniable**
- 4. At peace with others - unreconcilable**

At Peace With Creation

-During the creation story, on days 1 and 3-6 we are told God "saw that it was good." And on day 6 He actually said "very good" because He was looking at everything together. (Interesting this phrase is omitted on days 2 and 7, why...because He didn't create anything new on these days.)

(I think God's description "good" and "very good" has more to do with each created thing doing what it was designed to do!)

-Genesis 1:27-28

- In verse 27 it reads “God created...”
- In verse 28 it reads “God blessed...”
 - *I am created by God to be in relationship with Him. (other relationships, yes...but this is primary)*
 - *I am blessed by God to be in activity for Him. (“And God said to them: be active!”) (knowing God also means knowing our own personal “God said...” moments)*
- **“Goodness” is Biblical language we find in Genesis 1 to describe the feeling of Shalom that comes from being relationally with and active for God.**

-Let’s look at some activities (**time, money, emotions, and thoughts**)

- Hobbies
- Vocation
 - One third of our lives is spent working...another statistic estimates we’ll spend 90,000 at work in our lives.
- Church
- Community
- Family (how you approach family activities)

-The difference between a busy life and an active life is determined by how much of your list is UNDENIABLY assigned/blessed by God. Are your activities assignments or are they desperate attempts at creating your own feelings of “goodness” through busyness? Be at peace with creation!

At Peace With Others

-Have you ever considered how creation reveals what God values?

-The Garden of Eden in Genesis 1 was the perfect picture of Shalom not because everything was the same but rather because everything that was different worked in perfect harmony together...God values variety!

-Romans 12:16

-The absence of conflict found through sameness is a false sense of Shalom. True peace, Biblical peace which is Shalom is only experienced in harmony.

-Let's turn to Scripture...

- The 12 disciples
 1. different towns = different norms
 2. wildly different backgrounds
 3. wildly different personalities
 4. different tribes (biases and prejudice)
 5. different politics
 6. different rabbinical loyalties

- The first Jerusalem church
 1. Acts 2:41
 2. Acts 2:7-12
 3. Acts 6:1

- Paul's pattern of teaching
 1. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
 2. Romans 3:28
 3. Philippians 2:1-4

-Belong to a diverse community of people (especially your church) where you are challenged to work together with people who look, think, vote, live...UNRECONCILABLY different than you! Biblical Shalom is found in harmony, not sameness...be at peace with others!

One of the reasons so many people don't experience the Shalom that comes from being at peace with other is because they are constantly moving away from it source!

Band

-Isaiah 53:1-12

...doesn't sound like what God on earth should be does it...are you willing to trust that God knows exactly how to lead us into Shalom...will you trust Him?

Close

-Proverbs 3:5-6