

Harvest of Peace: The Great Conflict
November 5, 2017
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I. How bad is it (Really)?

A. _____.

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (ESV)

John 3:19-20

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (ESV)

B. Creation _____ reveals a _____.

Romans 1:19-20

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (ESV)

II. _____ and _____ in every relationship.

A. _____ is our sin against God.

Romans 1:32

They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too. (NLT)

B. We can't get along with _____.

Romans 1:28-31

²⁸ Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. ²⁹ Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. ³⁰ They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. ³¹ They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. (ESV)

III. Peace with God _____.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

A. _____ by grace through faith.

Colossians 1:19-22

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, (ESV)

B. We are at _____ with God.

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. (ESV)

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." — C.S. Lewis

IV. Peace freely _____ means peace freely _____.

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Small Group Questions

*You do NOT have to answer or discuss every question. Feel free to just pick a few. These are meant to guide you in truth. If you are having trouble answering a question, ask your small group leader to help you. They are committed to helping you develop as an authentic follower of Christ.

COMMUNITY QUESTION:

1. Are you looking forward to the holiday season? Do you think it will be peaceful? Why or why not?

Into the WORD/APPLICATION:

Here are some suggested sites in order to dive deeper into God's Word: blueletterbible.org, desiringgod.org/articles/all, biblos.com, ccel.org, logos.com, connect.ligonier.org, thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology.

1. Read Romans 1:18-20 and John 3:19, 20. The coming of Jesus to earth the first time brought peace on earth and goodwill toward men. Why did we need that? What is the source of the conflict that we find ourselves in? How has God given all men an understanding of what He desires from us? What do we learn from looking honestly at creation? Why doesn't everyone see it?
2. Read Romans 1:28-32. How does injustice and brokenness demonstrate itself in our relationships? Why do we continue to pursue actions that proceed from this kind of brokenness?
3. Romans 5:1 uses two significant words to describe our new condition before God "through Jesus Christ." Pastor Shaun spent some time talking through the person and work of Christ for us. How do the words "justified" and "peace" play out in our standing before God?
4. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How does the change in our relationship with God change our relationships here on earth?
5. Pastor Shaun talked about the way that our peace with God affects our offering to live in peace with others. What does that look like from day to day?