

A Life of Peace

(1 Peter 3:11)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of preaching at a congregation that was constantly fighting.
 2. Some people thrive on conflict.
 3. While we are at war, not every battle we fight needs to be fought.
 4. God calls us to pursue peace, and if we don't, we won't go to heaven (Hebrews 12:14).
 5. Let's consider some truths about peace.

I. Not Everyone Pursues Peace

- A. Have you seen the rancor and bitterness expressed on social media?
- B. To use Jesus to justify hateful, mean-spirited, sarcastic, vitriolic speech is shameful and sinful.
 1. Jesus knew hearts (Matthew 23).
 2. We don't.
- C. Ills. of church in Michigan.
- D. Ills. of children on our trip home.
- E. People who thrive in conflict reveal two things about themselves.
 1. They're board.
 2. They can't find fulfillment in the pursuit of peace.

II. What Brings Peace?

- A. Assurance of salvation.
 1. (1 John 5:16).
 2. Why we fail to be assured (John 19:31; Matt. 12; 1 John 5).
 3. (1 Kings 15:5; 1 John 1:7).
- B. Assurance of God's presence.
 1. (Matthew 28:19-20).
 2. Ills. of my daughter going to school.
 3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego (Daniel 3:26).
 4. Elisha & Syrians (2 Kings 6:16-17).
- C. Assurance of God's faithfulness.
 1. (2 Thessalonians 5:23-24).
 2. Ills. of my mom's death.
 3. Ills. comparing death to birth.

- Conclusion:
1. Brethren God gives us peace, and we need to seek it with one another.
 2. Remember, if we don't seek it, we will not see God.