

Happiness #6 - Peace with God

Icebreaker

How would you describe the country of your birth? What are the positives and negatives? Do you feel you are a good citizen? How often do you think about this citizenship?

Sermon Discussion

Is there something from the previous 5 messages that have stayed with you or have made a difference in your life? (Can you recap the 5 points - 1. No thing makes us happy, 2. We can sow our way to happiness, 3. Happy people are generous and wise with their money, 4. We confuse pleasure with happiness, 5. Happy people systematically give their lives away)

Do you feel that you understand the difference between immediate happiness (comes and goes with our circumstances) and ultimate happiness (could be described as joy or contentment) ?

Who is someone that you would hold up as a good example of a person who seems to be at peace with others, themselves and God? Do you think the apostle Paul fits into this category?

How important is the role of forgiveness in finding peace with others and ourselves?

Is there something (small or big) in your past that you have been able to come to peace with? Was God a part of that process? Did forgiveness play a role? Recall Pastor Josh's words: "When we realize that God doesn't hold our past against us, we find the freedom to no longer hold our past against us. As a result we find peace with ourselves." How does that resonate for you?

What are some useful advantages to thinking about the overarching nature of sin as being born into a 'nation of sin'? (eg. you don't get to choose it, ...)

Pastor Josh reminded us that wherever there is sin, there is death. Can you recall some of the examples he gave (it can kill relationships, a career, our bodies, our self-esteem, discipline). Can you think of other examples?

Can you pinpoint a time when you got the new birth certificate or passport making you a citizen of the kingdom of God?

Do you feel that there has been an overemphasis in Christian teaching/preaching on personal sin over the concept of being 'by birth a sinner'? Did Paul (see Colossians 1:13)?

Describe a time when you have had a deep sense of peace (possibly in the midst of hard things).

Discuss the following quote from the message:

"Peace with God does not start with us trying to make ourselves better. Because even if I learned Italian, I would still be a Canadian citizen. And acting righteous does not make us righteous until our Heavenly Father accepts us into the nation, the kingdom of righteous."

Has the concept of God as a perfect Heavenly Father been helpful to you?

Does being part of God's kingdom guarantee that you will have peace with God, others, and yourself?

Would you say you are a happier person as a result of listening to this teaching series? 😊