

Are you the Grinch Sermon Series? Part One: Robbing Yourself of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

Sermon Summary

No time to exercise...No time to go to church...No time to read your kids a story...Gotta get that last gift...Gotta finish the last details on the decorating...Life is busy especially during the holiday season. It is so easy for us to lose sight of what really matters as we live this life and slowly as we lose focus, we lose our peace. This message will help you find out how to keep the peace of God while living in the midst of a busy world.

Four Vital Signs of Peace

Vital Sign #1 – Recognize the Warning Signs

- **Matthew 12:34b** – For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
- **Key Point** – Each one of us who desire to obtain and maintain an everlasting peace must recognize the subtle ways that the enemy strives to take that peace away from us. The peace of God can be ignored, refused, and simple be overlooked in our daily lives as we shift our focus on other issues that we might deem to be more pressing. Stress, busyness, greed, anxiety, and many others things can rob us of the peace God has intended for us to maintain in our lives.

Vital Sign #2 – Get the Right Kind of Peace

- **John 14:27** – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
- **John 16:33** – “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
- **Ephesians 2:13-14** – But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.
- **Key Point** – We live in a fallen world that has a warped definition of peace. The world defines peace as merely an absence of conflict and God defines it as an all encompassing calmness and stillness that is present at all times whether in the thick of conflict or on the mountain of victory. Worldly peace is momentary and fleeting, God’s peace is everlasting and attainable at all times.

Vital Sign #3 – Maintain the Pursuit of Peace

- **Psalms 34:14** – Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
- **Philippians 4:4-9** – Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about

such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- **Key Point** – Write this down: Divine peace is attainable but not everyone strives to obtain it. Divine peace is a gift from God that can only be given, received, and utilized while in the presence of God. Once you depart from His presence then you begin losing the peace you so desperately sought after.

Vital Sign #4 – Demonstrate Peace

- **Galatians 5:22-23** – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
- **Isaiah 32:17** – The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.
- **Key Point** – We often have a misunderstanding of divine peace. We inherently believe that the peace is given to us for us. But the fact is that peace is given to us so that we can be the example to others. There is a reason why the Gospel is called the “Gospel of Peace.” It is not to be withheld but distributed freely by our words, our examples, our service, and our love!

Questions to Consider

1. What are the top three things that are trying to rob you of peace this holiday season? Explain.
2. How will you keep your peace during this holiday season? Explain.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 9:6 – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Series Challenge

This holiday season choose one family or individual in need to minister to through love, kindness, and service. Enlarge your heart and enlarge your mission.



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