

Life on the Vine

Peace

July 20, 2014

Characteristics of True Peace

1. Peace is NOT just the absence of _____.
 - According to the Bible: Peace = _____.
 - The Hebrew word for peace is “_____” and it refers to the state of _____, _____, and _____.
2. True peace is a _____.
3. In the Bible, peace and _____ go hand in hand.

Obstacles to avoid

1. _____ is the obstacle to experiencing true peace.
2. I am fragmented when...
 - ...my _____ and _____ lives are not the same.
 - ...when I _____ areas of my life.
 - ...when I use “_____” as breeding grounds for _____.

True peace is cultivated in my life...

1. ...when I _____ Jesus.
2. ...when I _____ others.
3. ...when I learn to give and receive _____. The Bible often uses the word _____.
4. ...when I give and receive _____.

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Reflect and Respond

- Think about the connection between my private faith and how I live that out publicly. What are ways I reflect my faith publicly? What about areas that don't necessarily reflect my faith? Are there corrections I need to make that would promote wholeness between the public and private areas of my life?
- This week I will spend some time thinking about the number of different "spheres" I live in. Do I ever find myself creating distinctly different personas as I move among these different settings?
- Make a list of different groups of people with whom I regularly associate. In what ways do these groups pull my loyalties and affections in different directions?
- Who can I encourage today? I will contact them as soon as possible (call, text, write, or message).
- How did I respond the last time someone corrected me when I truly was in the wrong? What do those reactions teach me about living peaceably with others?
- Can I think of examples where correction was successful in building up myself or someone else? Can I think of when I or someone else found it harmful? What factors do I believe account for these differences?
- Do I need to ask for forgiveness today? Do I need to offer forgiveness to someone?

*I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace.
I don't leave you the way you're used to being left – feeling abandoned, bereft.
So don't be upset. Don't be distraught.*

Jesus in John 14:27 (The Message)

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