

# Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

## Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

## Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

---

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{over for sermon notes}

December 23, 2007

Pastor Bob Wine

## PEACE ON EARTH

*"Managing our own lives creates inner wars"*

Matthew 5:9

**FOCUS FOR THE DAY ...** designed to live in peace

- Why do we want peace in our homes and community, yet continue to fight?

**James 4:1** "Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires for pleasure, which are constantly **fighting within you**." GNT

**Luke 2:14** "Glory to God in highest heaven, and **peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased**." NLT

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

**Philippians 4:7** "Then you will experience **God's peace**, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." NLT

- So, why are there verbal, even legal fights, still going on between Christians if they have this amazing peace?

**Matthew 5:9** "Blessed [happy] are the **peacemakers**, for **they** will be called sons of God."

### Practical Tips to Help You Follow the Prince of Peace

#### 1. REAL PEACE IS A \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD

- The fact God came Himself reveals how high of a priority peace is to Him.

**2 Corinthians 5:18** "God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us, and he has given us the work of making peace between himself and others." CEV

- He expects each of us to make the same work a high priority in our life.

**Romans 12:18** "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

- God detests those who cause dissension or destroy peace and unity in God's family. [Proverbs 6:16, 19]

## 2. TRUE PEACE IS NOT \_\_\_\_\_

- Being compliant or avoiding conflict doesn't promise peace!
- Jesus certainly wasn't passive, but faced issues head on. It is not what you do as much as how you do it.

## 3. MAKING TRUE PEACE IS A \_\_\_\_\_ ISSUE. [not a social one]

- Unless making peace goes to the spiritual core of the person, conflict is inevitable.
- Peace only comes when a person takes \_\_\_\_\_ for what is going on within themselves -- within their own heart.
- Making authentic peace must require Jesus' involvement in some fashion.

## 4. REAL PEACE IS \_\_\_\_\_

- Trying to bring peace to people who are at war within themselves is expensive!

**Isaiah 53:5** "He was **wounded** for our rebellious acts. He was **crushed** for our sins. He was **punished** so that we could have **peace** ..." God's Word

- Peace requires time talking the issue through with God to get His wisdom on it.
- Ask yourself, "Is Jesus' love living in me? Am I as passionate about peace and reconciliation as He is?"

## 5. HOW CAN I BE A \_\_\_\_\_?

- Be humble. This is essential.

**Matthew 5:3-5** "Blessed are the poor in spirit ...", "... those who mourn..." "... the meek ..."

- Desensitize the \_\_\_\_\_. Help them see the bigger picture.
- Learn to ask questions and listen instead of talking.
- Be proactive.

**MY ACTION PLAN:** When God's power is working in you, it is not a matter of can you be a peacemaker, but ... will you? Do you value what God values? If so, you will be a peacemaker at any cost. • What names has the Holy Spirit brought to your mind with whom God would have you serve as a peacemaker? • Write them down and ask for His wisdom. Look then for time and opportunity to allow Him to work through you.

## "DIGGING DEEPER"

For personal or small group study Week of December 23, 2007

**QUICK REVIEW:** Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week's message? Why?

### TODAY'S FOCUS

1. How much do we value peace in our lives? Discuss - then answer this question: "Something that easily robs me of peace is \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Describe a way that someone "breathed grace" to you recently, or a way you "breathed grace" to someone else? What part does grace have in the peacemaking process? [Luke 6:27-31; 35-36]

### GETTING THE POINT

1. Romans 12:18 says, "*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*" What do you believe God is saying to us about how much He values peace and desires us to be peacemakers? How far are we to go with this? Are we to live at peace at any cost? [Proverbs 16:7, 18-19; 17:1; 27:5-6; Matthew 5:9, 43-46; Luke 12:51-53]  
  
What did it cost Christ to bring peace? [Isaiah 53:5-12]
2. Where do conflicts come from? How are we to be peacemakers with one another? [James 4:1-6; Matthew 18:12, 15, 21-35; Galatians 6:1]

### A LOOK INSIDE

1. What conflicts do you struggle with in your life and with others? What plans have you made for growing and serving as a peacemaker? [James 4:6-11]
2. If you are studying as a small group or with someone else, take time to come up with a joint plan of action that you can put into practice. Start with looking at the sermon notes under "How can I be a peacemaker?" Be accountable to one another for following through with your peacemaking plans.