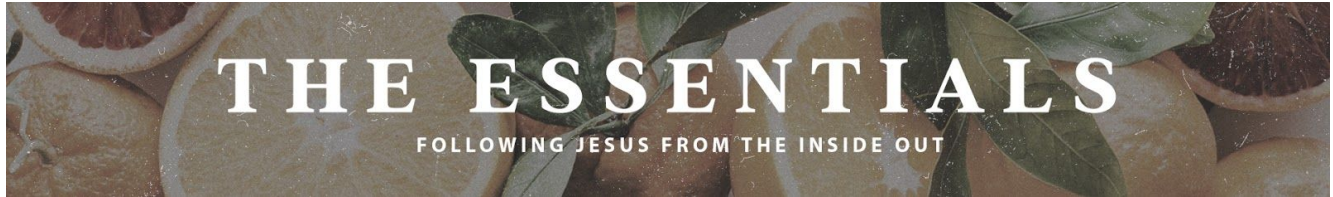


BEYOND SUNDAY: October 18, 2020



Series Page: wearepcc.com/theessentials

Message: Peace in a Polarized World

The Essentials 9-week series will focus on what it means to reflect the character of Jesus. Each week we will wrestle with one of the essential characteristics of Jesus with the hope of it bearing fruit in our lives as we become more dependent on the Spirit to lead us. This week our focus is on the third fruit of the Spirit - peace.

#1

Two Sundays ago (10/11), we learned the difference between experiencing joy and happiness. In the end, happiness ebbs and flows with our circumstances and joy is more consistent, for it is based on God's foundational truths and promises. How have you experienced happiness and joy recently?

#2

This past Sunday (10/18), we were challenged to usher in the fruit of the Spirit of peace into our polarized world. If you could bring peace into one conflict in the world—including your own life—and be guaranteed that peace would happen, where would it be and why?

#3

Read and reflect on [Galatians 5:13-26](#). Then finish this statement: "There is conflict in the world because..." Which divisive words in the passage stand out to you the most and why? How are you seeing them play out in your home, community, and nation? How does this make you feel?

#4

Paul, the author of Galatians and many other books of the Bible, was one who went from being a persecutor (known prior as Saul – see [Acts 8:1-3](#)) of people to a gracious and deliberate peacemaker (see [Romans 14:19](#), [2 Corinthians 13:11](#), [Ephesians 4:3](#)), who yearned to bring shalom (relational well-being, harmony with God and others) to the world. What were the keys to his transformation that made this possible (see [Galatians 1:11-24](#))?

#5

Review [Galatians 5:16, 22, 25](#). If the solution to conflict is walking in the Spirit and intentionally being a peacemaker, when it comes to conflict, are you more conflict-avoidant (passive) or conflict-intentional (aggressive)? How did Jesus handle conflict in His attempt to bring shalom to our broken world? What would you have to sacrifice for you to become more of a courageous or gracious peacemaker?

BEYOND SUNDAY: October 18, 2020

#6

Jesus promised us that there is a blessing for the peacemakers ([Matthew 5:9](#)), yet it takes deliberate healthy actions and help from the Spirit. Our speaker, Brian Rhen, Pastor to Adults, encouraged us to be peacemakers by figuratively using the handshaking metaphor of “passing the peace” with one another when in a potentially divisive situation.

- Extend your hand and release your agenda (to hold it is to make a fist = fight)
- Hold on to grasp their understanding to honor them
- Let go and give them to God, whether you agree or disagree

This week, to whom is God calling you to be a peacemaker in your home, work, or community? Will you let the Spirit help you pass the peace?

Series Daily Prayer:



THE ESSENTIALS
FOLLOWING JESUS FROM THE INSIDE OUT

John Stott's Morning Prayer

Good morning Heavenly Father, Good morning Lord Jesus, Good morning Holy Spirit.
Father, I worship you as the Creator and sustainer of the universe.
Lord Jesus, I worship you as Lord and Saviour of this world.
Holy Spirit, I worship you as the sanctifier of the people of God.
Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Heavenly Father, I pray that today I might walk in your presence and please you more and more.
Lord Jesus, I pray that today I might take up my cross and follow you.
Holy Spirit, I pray that you might fill me today with your presence and cause your fruit to ripen within me: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**
Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity; three persons in one God, have mercy on me. Amen

John Stott (1921-2011), evangelist and scholar

[Click to download prayer & Galatians 5:22-23](#)

Actions or Resources:

- Memorize the Fruit of the Spirit: [Galatians 5:22-23](#).
- Read Chapter 4: [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#), by Christopher J.H.Wright.
- Join a 9-Week Group: [Cultivating The Essentials](#) for Men, Women, or Coed.
- Join a [House Church](#).