



# Advent

Many gifts, one package

# What Is Peace?

- ★ Old Testament - Shalom
  - Complete or whole
- ★ Life is complex with many pieces
- ★ Jesus comes to make us whole



# Punchline

Piece by piece, we're made  
complete by Jesus' PEACE



**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.**

Isaiah 9: 6 NIV



**Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.**

Isaiah 9: 7 NIV



# Jesus is Peace

- ★ God is giving us His Son
- ★ Prince of Peace
  - Brings peace and gives peace out
- ★ Never ending reign of peace





# “He’s Him”



**For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,  
and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether  
things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace  
through his blood, shed on the cross.**

Colossians 1: 19-20 NIV





# Peace Between Us and God

- ★ God wants His creation to be with Him
- ★ Sin separates creation and God
- ★ God made peace by sending Jesus





# Proving Drawer



# Peace Between Us and God

- ★ Peace allows our relationship with God to grow
- ★ God wants peace and relationship with us
- ★ We also need to make peace with God
- ★ Our relationship at peace with God removes any cracks or blemishes from it



**For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.**

Ephesians 2: 14-15a NIV



**His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility**

Ephesians 2: 15b-16 NIV



# Peace Between People

- ★ Peace made two groups into one
- ★ Physical and metaphorical boundaries come down in Jesus
- ★ Not just the absence of conflict, but harmony around Jesus





# Fast And Furious Franchise



# Peace Between People

- ★ Unifying around Jesus with other Christians
- ★ Put down hostility and arrogance towards others
- ★ Agree to agree on Jesus
- ★ Jesus is peace between pieces of creation





**“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

John 14: 25-26 NIV



**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 14: 27 NIV



# Inner Peace

- ★ Jesus promises the gift of peace
  - Sense of calm in the midst of chaos
- ★ No person can give this





# Junk Drawer



# Inner Peace

- ★ Being able to breathe easy in the midst of everything
- ★ Peace is hard to find when we let other things in our hearts and minds first
- ★ Choose peace before the storm the comes



# Wrap Up - Peace Is A Gift

- ★ Jesus knew we needed peace
- ★ Nothing brings it like Jesus
- ★ Peace with God
- ★ Peace with others
- ★ Peace inside of us
- ★ Jesus' peace makes us complete



## Audio file

[Peace Audio.mp3](#)

## Transcript

So gifts we've. All probably given gifts at some point. It's the Christmas season. We may be giving gifts, types of gifts. I like ones that mean something to people that they're really going to remember or that will make them very happy. I do remember though, watching gifts being given, especially as a kid, and I vividly remember being at my grandparent's house when I was a kid. And my grandpa would sit in his chair and he had one of those cool, like remote chairs that would bring up and down and he would sit there. And he had given gifts to us as the kids, as his grandkids. But most of them needed to be put together now, naturally, we had zero patience to wait for that. So we needed our dad to put it together right away. So my grandpa would kick back in his chair and just laugh the whole time watching my dad. To put these together and my dad's got to be there, putting it together piece by piece until this toy was totally complete. Now some were super easy, some they have many pieces, some were really complex, right? And they had to get all put together. And the goal is for my dad to put together all of these. Toys now, prior to that, there's anticipation, there's excitement and a complete lack of patience from us as kids are like dad, let's get a wiggle on. Let's do this right. And once it was done, there's sense of completion. It's over. Maybe a sense of relief or peace for my dad. He's like. Finally, we're done. That piece is what we're going to talk about today. We're in the second week of our Advent series. We are going over the different themes of Advent this year. We're in a series called many gifts, one package each week seeing each theme as as a gift. Because I really see all of these as gifts that we are given. But then in one package, how they come in Jesus. And on Christmas Eve, we will talk specifically about Jesus. So this week we'll talk about peace. We will light our candle each week to represent it. We have one lit now that's hope from last week. So here we go with the big reveal of our awesome battery candles. Yeah, there's the peace candle that we will light this week. Alright? So that's all lit. Now we're going to talk about peace a little bit before we dive in. Kind of what it means in the Old Testament piece is referred to by Shalom, the word Shalom. And in my time in ministry, my time in seminary, I heard the word Shalom a lot. We love to talk about this. Because it's not. It doesn't mean peace always in the sense that we think about it. Shalom would be being complete or whole. Think about like a stone with no cracks in it. It's just complete. It's totally put together. And there's also this implication that life is complex. Life has many pieces, but Jesus coming as our peace, Jesus bringing peace or Shalom. Makes us whole. So what I want us to think about today, kind of that punchline thing to take away is that piece by piece we're made complete by Jesus's peace with all these different pieces in our lives. But we're made complete by the peace of Jesus. So today we're going to look at the different pieces of our life. That need Jesus peace. And before we dive into that, we're going to see that not only did Jesus bring peace, Jesus actually was peace. We're gonna start with Isaiah 9. Verses 6 through 7. This is the one that's bookmarked on your table. If you want to follow along, we'll be in different passages. Kyle will have them all right here behind me. So let's read Isaiah 9. This is 6 through 7. How Jesus is indeed? It was a fairly famous scripture for Christmas, time says. For to us a child is born to us. A son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be called wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, of the greatness of his government and peace. There will be no end. He will

reign on David's throne. And over his Kingdom, establishing and upholding it, with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever the zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish. This will stop there. So God's son is coming. God's son is going to be given. He's going to come as a human, he's going to be born of human parents, and Mary and Joseph, but he's given by God and he's giving these great descriptors, these wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father. This is the closest thing to really seeing him coming as supernatural, to actually coming as God, he's going to be all these things. But the final one that says is Prince of Peace. And Prince, in this sense isn't royalty. We don't want to think royalty like we maybe think of it. Prince here would be like administrator or somebody that gives something out. So Jesus is coming as peace, but also as like the administrator of peace. He's going to bring it and dish it out and we're going to get into those ways that he does that in a little bit here. But it's this rain. This is reign of peace, this never ending peace, and it comes in Jesus. He is that he literally is. There's this phrase going around that I hear I follow sports quite a bit, and there's a phrase going around that says he's him, and if you've heard this before, if not, it's totally fine. But they'll say somebody will have a really good game to be like he's him. Meaning he had this fantastic game or he did the best or he he's awesome or think about you go to a concert and there's a musician that just absolutely crushes the performance. It's. He's him. He's that musician. It's the best of the best. There's nothing better. It's just borderline perfect. People would say he's him with Jesus being all these things. Wonderful, counselor. Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. He's him. So Jesus is peace, but he brings peace, and that's a really the big part. I want to focus on today, I want to talk about how he is peace, but how he brings it to us and the 1st way is he makes peace between US and God. Colossians 1, verses 19 and 20, says for God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him and through him to reconcile to himself. All things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross. So God wants the fullness of his creation, his fullness, all of it, to dwell with him, to dwell in him, to be with him. The problem is, there is sin, and sin separates people from God. That's kind of a we use the word barrier a lot, feel like that's maybe my word of the last few months. I think I've said it a lot, but that's that barrier between US and God. It's like conflict or tension that keeps the two apart. But God reconciled that through Jesus on the cross. He made peace between us by sending Jesus. We think of that a lot around Good Friday and Easter time because it's on the cross that Jesus actually dies and pays for our sins, but we can't get to the cross with Jesus as a human if he's not born 1st and he comes that way here in this season and we anticipate that and we get ready for that. So God took peace, took care of that piece of our life, that separation from God by making. Peace through Jesus, birth life, death and resurrection, and it allows us to get closer to him. It allows us to grow with him. Stacy and I've been watching a lot of the baking shows. Now we're getting close to Christmas. We just finished up great British baking show. Big fan of that one. One of the things they have to do in that show is they do call proving the dough, right. You take your yeast and some pictures that you put yeast and you mix it with the dough and it has to prove basically proving means it rises, it puffs up, it gets it. Grows in size. Now this doesn't just happen, right? You have the dough and you put the yeast in it, but you just let it sit there and I stare. At it, it doesn't rise. They put it in what's called a proving George. I decided I really wish I had one of these right. It's super cool. It's like, got this nice temperature to it. You put it in there so the dough can puff and rise. How it's supposed to. But it needs the right amount of heat. Not too. Much, not too little. But it needs that heat for the dough to rise and for it to grow. Jesus is peace between us, and God is like that proving drawer, that perfect amount of heat that can rely our relationship to grow. Because, see peace between us and God. It allows us to be in heaven with God, but it also allows our relationship with God to grow. It removes tension from our relationship with God. All



relationships will struggle to grow or be healthy. If there's tension there, or if there's things left hanging if things are left unresolved. God making peace with us through Jesus does that resolving what was unresolved. See God wants a relationship with us. He wants peace with us. That was his design. We go back to Genesis one and two. He didn't create a world where there wasn't peace where he wasn't with his people. Sin came in. And because we're human, that barrier that separated us from God came. It attempts to keep us apart from God, but God's made peace with us by sending Jesus, he's allowing our relationship with him to be complete, to be whole. And we have to be willing to accept that. That God has made peace with us and at the same time we need to make sure that we're not holding anything against God as well. In essence, we need to make peace with God. And this can be challenging, right? If we're holding something against God, if we're, if we're mad or we're disappointed or we're hurt. Talk to him about it. Put that out there to him. He wants to listen. He will hear it, and you can talk to him about it. But be willing to make peace with God on your end. He's done it on his side. Let's do it on ours. He created us in his own image and was saying, yeah, we let that down. But he's made peace with us and he's bringing us back to him. So let's take advantage of that. And when we do that, our relationship with God is at peace and we can remove any cracks or blemishes in it and have this whole relationship. With God and that's what. We're after. So Jesus came as peace and made peace between US and God. Jesus came to also make peace between people. Ephesians 2:14 and 16. Says for he himself is our peace. Who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to creating himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross. By which he put to death their hostility. So again, Jesus is described as. And by being peace, it says he made the two groups one. Well, Paul's writing about hearing this letter. We have the Jews and the Gentiles, and they were separated. But he's saying but by Jesus what Jesus did, they can become one to Jesus. They're no longer needed to be these divisions or distinctions between them. And they had literal boundaries. If you look back at how the temple was set up. There was the court of the Gentiles where the Gentiles were and they didn't get to go past. A literal wall where the Jews went through. They were stopped, but Jesus breaks down both those physical and metaphorical boundaries or barriers and walls. He does that. The animosity and the conflict get broke. But that's not it. Because this peace that Jesus is and Jesus brings his Shalom isn't just the absence of conflict, it's also that wholeness and completeness the groups now have peace and can be together in harmony. They can have that harmony around Jesus and it doesn't mean they have to give up all their traditions or who they are. But it does mean. That they have something they can kind of unify around. The two pieces can really be made whole. If you've ever had to think about working with somebody that's really difficult, but you had to come together right to work on a difficult project. I thought about this. I've heard stories. Yeah, here we go. The Fast and the Furious franchise. And we seen the movies. Has anybody seen all of them was like 37 now I think it's a lot. It's eight or nine. But these two guys are in one of Vin Diesel in the rock. 2/20/16 they're doing the one called the Furies, and there was a lot of hubbub that came out that these two did not get along. We're not liking each other. The rock posted something on Instagram about professionalism and in essence was calling out Vin Diesel. And he had his comments. There's back and forth, and apparently they couldn't even shoot some scenes together. They don't be. Around each other. But eventually they squashed whatever it was. The movie got made and they said it was all for the good. The Fast and Furious franchise. If you want to call it a franchise, they have different philosophies on acting according to. Them, but making a good movie, making a good series and yes, making a whole lot of money on it is something they could come around and agree upon. They had

differing views, but there's something they could unify around. We have that in Jesus something to unify around this coming together, even with disagreement and unifying around something with other Christians. And for us, that's Jesus. Agree and rally around the fact that Jesus came and he's our savior. We don't have. To agree on everything with all other Christians, I probably don't agree with everything. And with every one of you. In this room. We don't have to do all the same things as all other Christians. It can be little things, whether you're an iPhone or an Android user, or the style of music you like, or how you like to dress, or the food, or it can get even bigger you. Can disagree on social issues. Or political issues that one always gets hot and heavy. Disagree on all this stuff and that's OK, because we can unify around Jesus even though we disagree on all those things. It's a big reason why every week at hometown we take communion and we'll do it later. Because we come here and we can say, even if we disagree on 99 other things, we can agree on this one and we can celebrate that together that Jesus came. He died. He's our savior. And we rally around that because it's bigger and more important than any of. The other stuff. Right, everyone in this room can do it. It doesn't mean we're best friends, right? Being unified or having peace doesn't mean you're always hanging out with everybody. Doesn't mean you're best friends. Doesn't mean you're going to each other's Christmas parties. You totally can. But that's not necessarily what it means. It just means we're gonna put down some hostility. We're gonna put down our arrogance of thinking we're smarter. Or we're better. We're more right than somebody else. Put all that down. We can agree to disagree on all this other stuff, but agree to agree here on Jesus. Agree to agree on Jesus come together for Jesus. Serve Jesus together, represent Jesus well together. If you're like, OK, I can agree to agree on Jesus with somebody. I don't wanna be around them. I don't wanna serve with them or anything. OK, here's the challenge. Then pray for them. Pray for them now. Don't pray for them to change their minds and start thinking like you or to believe the things you. Do pray that God. Will work in their lives, or that God will work in their ministry in the way God wants to. Because if it's from God, it can't be wrong. This one is challenging. I have had to bring myself to pray for people I do not like, but that I know believe in Jesus the way I do. It's hard, but that's what Jesus came to do. And he's bigger than any other of the little beefs I might hold inside. That's what he does because there are so many things in this world that want to cause divisions with all the things that want to cause divisions, even between us as Christians, let's let Jesus be the peace between the different pieces of our creation between us. So Jesus came to make peace between people. The final one. Inner peace talk about peace within ourselves, John. 14:25 through 27 says all this. I've spoken while still with you, but the advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all the things will remind you of everything I have said. To you. Peace. I leave with you my peace. I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. So Jesus is going to go away. He's going to end up in heaven, but he promises that his presence and who he is will not be gone forever. He promises the gift of peace, and this is a peace that's like this sense of calm or comfort in the midst of struggle, in the midst of chaos, in the midst of temptation in the. Midst of hurt. You keep going on. Now it's not eliminating that, right? It's not that. OK. The peace in heaven Jesus means it's just gonna all be gone tomorrow that the struggle is over. It doesn't mean that, but it's having. That peace of Jesus, that calmness in the midst, inner peace, peace of heart and mind, no person can give this the world can't give it. We can't manufacture it or create it. It just comes from Jesus. Only Jesus can put together the pieces of us that are super disconnected. And make us whole. Only Jesus does that, and it seems like with the way Jesus says this here that he knows struggle is coming. Right. He knows he's going away. His disciples apostles are going to continue and build out his church. It's like he knows there's going to be some inner struggle with this. That's gonna be really hard. So he says I'm going to

leave you this peace. He leaves inner peace. To make it whole. To clean it up, really inside of them. I thought I was trying to like, man. What? What things need to really come together. And I was walking around our kitchen is I have a weird way of processing. My sermons have to like stand up from my desk and go like wander around and get my head out of it. And I was in her kitchen which I spent a lot of time in. I opened up what is our junk drawer then we have a junk drawer at home. Yeah right. Everything gets chucked in it. Right, it's all random stuff and I looked at ours and you might find pens and scissors and close pins and rubber bands and candles. Now, ours was actually organized because for some reason I went through and organized it a few months ago. I think probably because Stacy was like this thing is a disaster. We can't even open it. I was like, alright, take a look, but it's usually like this. It's all scattered. The drawer needs some sense of order, organization, the drawer, the junk drawer needs some peace, right? That junk drawer needs a piece of Jesus. It needs someone to take all the stuff that just got kind of chucked in there, all that crap that just got. Thrown in there and make it complete her hole. Jesus brings peace to the junk drawer that can be our lives sometimes, right? Jesus can do that now. At least he does it for me. I hope he can do that for you. And if your life doesn't feel like a juncture or that's OK, maybe that's just me. That's my own little metaphor. That's fine. But that's what it feels like. It's being able to breathe easily in the midst of everything. Going on around you, everything. The verse I read before verse 27 gonna go back real quick to it. Peace I leave with you my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Do not be afraid. That is a verse that I love that I've gone back to many, many times. In my. Life it is also a verse. That has made me want to pick up my Bible and throw it against the wall. Because it's so hard to find, sometimes that piece can be so difficult to grab onto. I've shared this before, but I have diagnosed anxiety and depression and I have to be aware of that every day and what it does, the way it hits me is it causes a bunch of what's called mental adrenaline. So my brain just gets going if ever seeing a movie or TV show, like a bunch of pictures, flash really fast on the screen, right? That's kind of what happens in my head sometimes. I'm like alright, let's figure all the things out. How am I going to do this? Where are we going here? Who's picking the kids up? When's karate? What am I making for dinner? OK, I gotta prep that sermon. What's going on in that TV show? Ohh. Hey, I gotta shovel the drive it. Let's figure it all out. Let's go. And it's like my system just gets overloaded. Right, it's the overload. What I need is peace in that overloaded system, and it can be hard to find that peace in Jesus because I've let other things into my heart and my mind. For him. Haven't been focused on choosing Jesus's peace 1st and it can cause my mind to feel like it's on a whole lot of pieces. Now that's just me. Maybe some of you are like, I don't really struggle for inner peace. I got that one on lockdown. Great. I'm happy for you. I really AM. But for others like May I do so with inner peace? Think about what are those stressors for you, the things that might stress you out might make you feel chaotic, like you're into multiple pieces inside work. Relationships, health, current events, the holiday season. Take your. Pick any of them. Now Jesus, peace doesn't fix all of those. But it does help you feel together in the midst of that craziness, comforted, able to just take a breath and say OK. Inner peace, when it feels like everything else is chaotic. Jesus left us that, but we have to choose that peace before the storm. We choose that peace, even when it's calm in life, because we wait for the storm. Jesus, peace is still there, but it's super hard to find. It can be really hard to find. So let's make that piece something we choose. First, find that piece every day. Find that piece first. Because Jesus left us peace, Jesus came as peace and man, I believe that peace is a gift. Pieces of gift. We're gonna wrap up with that today. It's a gift because Jesus knew we needed it. Right, he went to left it just like, ohh here. He's just a little one off thing. You guys can have if you want it. He knew we were going to need peace and nothing else can bring peace the way Jesus does. And we may look for it elsewhere and for a little while we

might find it elsewhere, might find peace in relationships, might find peace and vacations. Some people look for peace in substances. Some people look for peace in feelings. But eventually, all of that piece fades. But the peace of Jesus doesn't fade and look at the big ways he's brought at peace with God. Allowing our relationship with God to grow and to be whole. Peace with others, allowing us to unify around him around what we celebrate a communion even when there are 99 other differences that might seem insurmountable. That's what Jesus peace with. Other people brought. And then Jesus brought peace inside of us. Allowing us to be comforted and calm everything else around us seems chaotic. All the pieces of our lives. To be put together because Jesus's peace makes us complete. Let's pray. Gotta thank you for today. And this next theme of Advent, God of peace. God, I thank you that you sent Jesus to to be our peace and to bring peace. God, it's something we all need. And I thank you that he brought peace. Between us God that you made peace so we can grow our relationship with you, that we can be with you. And God, that you brought peace between other people. And that one could be hard. Got to take advantage of. So I pray for all of us if we're we. Feel like we're not at peace with other people. That we would pray we would spend time with you, God, and we would figure out how to make that happen, how to unify around you as our savior. God, I thank you. You brighten your peace, that you are our inner peace. Gotta pray for each of us in this room that we would make the choice to find you as our peace every day that we would make the choice to find you as our peace right away and 1st so that when things do get chaotic or crazy or when they're not. That you would be our peace, that we'd be focused on you as that. We thank you again for this morning your name. Amen.