

Cultivate Peace in a Culture of Pieces

September 29-30, 2018

INTRODUCTION: Puzzle Pieces

Ephesians 2:14 (All verses from the New International Version 1984)
For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day You fill me with Yourself and cause Your Fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Amen.

Cultivate Peace in a Culture of Pieces

1. Find peace in the Source of Peace (or the Prince 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.***
 - Romans 5:1 ***Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,.***
2. Surrender the missing pieces in your life to pursue God's peace.
 - Psalm 34:14 ***Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.***

THE SERENITY RAYER

“God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
(for most it stops here, but it continues)

Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace
Taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it;

Trusting that You will make all things right
If I surrender to Your will

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.” – Reinhold Niebuhr

- Numbers 6:22-26 ²² *The LORD said to Moses, ²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: ' ²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

3. Share the peace that makes you whole with others.

- 1 Peter 3:9 *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*
- Ephesians 2:14 *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,*

CONCLUSION: Hello, Good-bye, and Everything in between