

Entrusted 3

Stewarding Your Peace

Introduction: Why Peace Must Be Stewarded

Over the past few weeks in our *Entrusted* series, we've discovered that nothing we have truly belongs to us—it all belongs to God. We are not owners; we are stewards. We have already seen that we are called to steward **our resources** and then **our time**. Today we move to something far more personal and, perhaps, more easily overlooked: **our peace**. Many people think of peace as something that simply happens to them. They believe that if circumstances are favourable, relationships are healthy, and life is going well, then they will experience peace. But Scripture presents a very different picture. Peace is not merely an emotion to enjoy; it is a treasure to guard, a gift to cultivate, and a responsibility to steward.

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."

This verse is particularly powerful for our stewardship series because it contains both **God's provision** and **our responsibility**:

- **"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you"** — Christ entrusts His peace to us as a gift.
- **"I do not give to you as the world gives"** — Kingdom peace is different from circumstantial peace; it is rooted in His presence rather than our circumstances.
- **"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"** — Jesus places responsibility on us to guard and steward the peace He has given. The phrase "do not let" implies that we have a role in protecting our hearts from anxiety and fear.

Peace is not only a gift to receive; it is a gift to steward.

So Jesus said, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."* If He has given us His peace, then we are responsible for how we protect it, nurture it and release it into the lives of others.

Every steward protects what has been entrusted to them. If someone entrusts you with their property, you look after it. If God entrusts you with His peace, you must do the same.

Today we'll discover this: **Peace isn't just something God wants us to experience—it is something He calls us to steward faithfully.**

The word "peace" (Greek *eirene*) together with its derivatives (the verbs meaning to reconcile, **to be at peace, and to make peace, one, quietness, rest**). *eirénē* (from *eirō*, "to join, tie together into a whole") – properly, wholeness, i.e. when all essential parts are joined together; peace (God's gift of wholeness).

In God's Kingdom we are called to peace. In this message we will explore what this really means and how to avoid losing our peace. **There is a peace that comes into you when you are born again, it is part of fruit of the born again spirit.**

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

When you are continuously fretting and anxious it means that the peace of Christ is not ruling in your heart. **Peace is internal first and then it manifests relationally.**

Prov 17:1 Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

This is the state of many families today, they may be affluent but there is so much strife. We are called to value peace more than feasting.

The key to overcoming this is understanding that God is the source of true peace. Jesus is even called by this:

*Isaiah 9:6 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**.*

Out of all the references that could have been made with regards to His character four were chosen, one of which was Prince of Peace. **Learning to steward your peace is a primary aspect of Christian discipleship.**

Luke 10:5-6 5 When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.

You can't pass on peace which God has not authorised or deemed worthy. In the same way that anxiety is infectious and spreads easily, peace can also be passed on. **Your peace does not automatically rest upon them if you have not released it.**

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Peace is a weapon that guards your heart. It doesn't say the God of love or joy but the God of peace is the one who crushes Satan. Today, **God's peace working in and through you will be a weapon of righteousness.** Often in warfare the enemy's strategy is to get you to lose your peace. Often he can do so because he sees your past patterns. He knows the things that throw you and make you lose your peace.

Peace is not the avoidance of conflict and pain.

Respectful confrontation often provides clarity which tends to produce peace.

Sometimes we need to go through seasons of pain, conflict and confrontation to get to a place of sustained peace (eg tooth extraction)

Look what Jesus says quoting Micah 7

Mt 10:34-40 34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' 37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. 40 "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

It is one thing to be persecuted because of your beliefs and quite another thing to always be fighting because of your poor interpersonal skills.

God is our source of peace, therefore we are stewards of it.

God is a God of peace and calls us to be stewards of peace. Sometimes getting to a place of peace involves difficult conversations and conflict resolution. But the result is peace. Peace is internal first. Being at peace with yourself. No guilt or condemnation but a clear conscience.

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.

Jesus is called Prince of Peace. He epitomizes peace. Kingdom peace is unique. The world has counterfeit sources of peace. Do not let your heart be troubled. You are responsible for this. Don't say someone else made me feel that way.

Peace can be received by you and also robbed from you.

Do you know the things that rob you of peace?

Prov 14:30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

When you are envious it robs you of peace. Peace in your heart has a positive impact on your health. Peace is first internal then external and relational. We are to be at peace with ourselves first.

We are responsible for the level of peace in which we walk. If you call yourself a child of God then a key characteristic of yours is that you are a peacemaker.

Mt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy

What does a peacemaker look like?

1. Peacemakers pursue peace with each other.
Ps 34:14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
Someone who actively pursues peace will look for win-win agreements not win-lose.
2. Peacemakers reconcile others to God and to each other.
They will say things to someone to help them to trust and appreciate another person more.
3. Peacemakers solicit feedback to check if a relationship is intact.
4. Peacemakers right wrongs through restitution
5. Peacemakers seek to rebuild trust when it has been eroded

You are not a peacemaker if you:

- Like to offend or irritate people on purpose
- Intentionally disturb the peace in any environment (eg talking loudly when others need quiet)
- Tell people things last minute that throw them off balance
- Are generally disorganised resulting in chaos for others. (order brings peace).
- Panic easily
- Release words that spread anxiety as opposed to words of hope

James 3: 17 - 18 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

When you are a peacemaker you reap a harvest of righteousness. This is a reward.

"Every seed sown always produces a harvest. Where there is a seed sown, there is a harvest on its way."
Rory Synoground

You can sow in peace or sow in discord despite your knowledge. Would you rather be right or reconciled?

When you sow in peace you will reap a harvest of many virtues that you wanted to see in that environment. In a climate of peace many good things come forth.

Families and individuals are missing out on breakthroughs today because they are not sowing in peace.

How do we keep our peace?

You keep your peace by:

1. Avoiding envy

Prov 14:30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

When you are envious it robs you of peace. Run your own race.

Gen 37:4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

2. Living in single-minded obedience

Being a doer of the Word single-mindedly will give you a clear conscience which results in peace.

*Phil 4: 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, **and the God of peace will be with you.***

Is 48:22 "There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked."

Peace = Irene = oneness not divided. The double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

When you are single-minded you are authentic. You are not projecting an ideal image to please the world.

When we are off-centre we should confess and repent

Confession and repentance help you to be at peace with yourself. When you carry guilt and condemnation you are bound by the fear of punishment. This is very unpeaceful. **A clear conscience brings peace.**

3. Knowing how valuable you are to God

Knowing this will help you not to worry.

*Matt 6:25 -27 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not much more valuable than they?** 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"*

4. Keeping your Mind on God

Is 26:3 (NKJV) 3You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Phil 4:7-8 8 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

This is how you guard your inner peace

5. Maintaining order

*1 Cor 14: 31 – 33 31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33 **For God is not a God of disorder but of peace**—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.*

Order brings peace. Order is seen in how you organise yourself and also in how you understand authority.

6. Valuing a gentle and quiet spirit

1 Peter 3: 3-4 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes. 4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

The derivative of the Hebrew word for quiet comes from three words: shaqat, sha'ar, and nachath. These words convey the following meanings: **undisturbed, at ease, and set on. The Greek word, hesuchazo, indicates action as one refrains from meddlesome behaviour.** (biblestudytools.com).

Conclusion

Scripture repeatedly calls us to **guard, pursue, maintain** and **live in** peace.

The question is no longer simply, *"Do I have peace?"*

The better question is:

- **Am I stewarding the peace God has given me?**
- **Am I protecting it from the things that steal it?**
- **Am I cultivating it through obedience and trust?**
- **Am I sowing it into my family, my workplace and every relationship God has entrusted to me?**

Faithful stewards don't only protect what God has placed in their hands—they multiply its influence.

Imagine the impact if every believer became a faithful steward of peace. Homes would become places of refuge. Marriages would become stronger. Churches would become healthier. Workplaces would become more life-giving. And the world would catch a glimpse of the Prince of Peace through His people.

May we leave today committed not only to receiving Christ's peace, but to stewarding it well—for His glory and for the blessing of everyone He has entrusted to our lives.