



DATE	December 18, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Finding Peace
SERIES	The Bible says Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. And believing that should change the way we live! But if we're not intentional about it, Christmas can come and go without changing us at all. Let's make this Christmas an intentional Christmas.

“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

Introduction: In the sermon this week we learned that Biblical peace is not the absence of trouble. And it is unrelated to circumstances, but centered around relationships.

1. Pastor David said the Hebrew word for “peace,” shalom means more than the absence of conflict and an appearance of calm and tranquility. He described 3 ideas the term embraces.
 - Complete & healthy
 - Harmony - no guilt & shame
 - Prosperity or fulfillment – blessing

Discuss these ideas in your group. Are any of them new thoughts to you about peace? Explain. What stood out to you about any of them in what David presented?

Which ones would you say you are generally okay on? Which ones could you use a little more help with? Any stories or examples you'd like to share?

2. Read today's scripture passage. Luke 2: 1- 16

Pastor David said the shepherds were considered at the bottom of the social ladder. And yet they didn't hesitate to immediately go find the baby Jesus in the stable. Why do you think the way they responded to the news then and the way people respond today is so different? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your own response today? Why?

Pastor David said peace is found in pursuing 3 relationships.

3. With God-- Read Colossians 1:20-22

How do you think the idea presented in this passage differs from what most people think about God? If you were going to describe what it means to be “justified” in everyday words, how would you do it?

4. With Ourselves-- Read Philippians 4:7

Paul was in prison when he wrote this. Would you say he lived these words? Can you describe a time when you lived them? How would you describe this to someone who has never lived it?

5. With Others—Read Romans 12:18

Pastor David said this is the hardest one because it's out of our control. Describe where you've lived this in your own life or perhaps where you need to live it in your own life.

6. Pastor David talked about extending peace to others. What are some practical ways you think Christians can do this? Is there someone in your life somewhere that you think could use peace? Is there some way you can offer it to them?

Pastor David ended by saying The Peace **of** God can never happen without the peace **with** God. And sometimes that's a matter of settling up through confession. Is there something you need to confess to him today?