

Living & Loving in a Messy World - Week 4

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-8

Also see Romans 5: 8; John 15:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5; Ephesians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Proverbs 10:12; 1 Peter 4:8; Romans 12: 9-10; 1 John 4: 12; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Psalm 101:2; Hebrews 12:14; Romans 12:18; 1 Peter 2:17; Luke 6:36; Lamentations 3:20

Discussion Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. When have you really enjoyed making a mess? Have you ever had to clean up someone else's mess? (If you're a parent, of course you've done that!) Has anyone ever had to clean up after you?
3. In the sermon, 5 ways were listed to help with peace in the home: Practice Peace, Honor Others, Posture of Humility, Strive for Maturity, and Maintain Perspective.
 - o Which of these are easy for you to maintain?
 - o Which are more difficult?
 - o What is it that makes them so difficult? (There can be lots of answers outside of ourselves, but we cannot control or decide those. We are only responsible for our own choices/actions, so focus your answers there.)
 - o How does an awareness our own messiness keep us humble?
 - o How have you seen the Fruit of the Spirit (from Galatians 5:22-23) interplay with the dynamic of peace in a family?
4. Read Luke 6:36. The point was made that "Mercy is a launching pad for love"; with four choices, or postures of attitude, that can flow out of that: Overlook past hurts; Be kind when others don't deserve it; let go of past offenses; and believe that God is working in the lives of others.
 - o How does forgiveness play into these steps? What about faith?
 - o Is it necessary for a person to repent/apologize before we forgive them? (Why/why not?)
 - o How does the messiness of others give the Spirit opportunity to shape us?

May we root our peace in the One and only Prince of Peace!