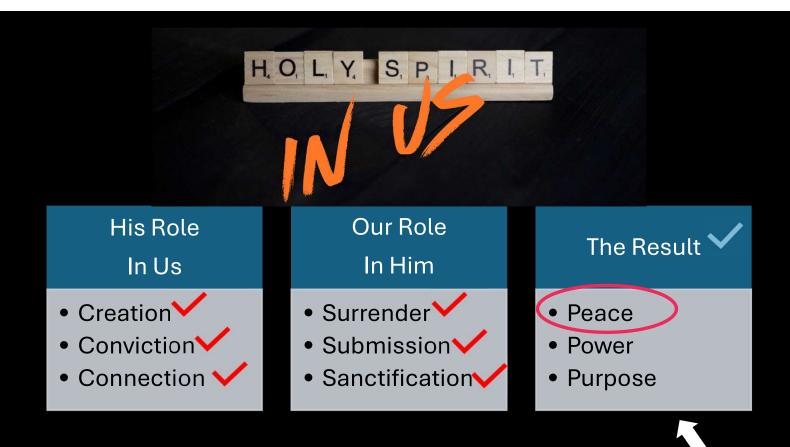
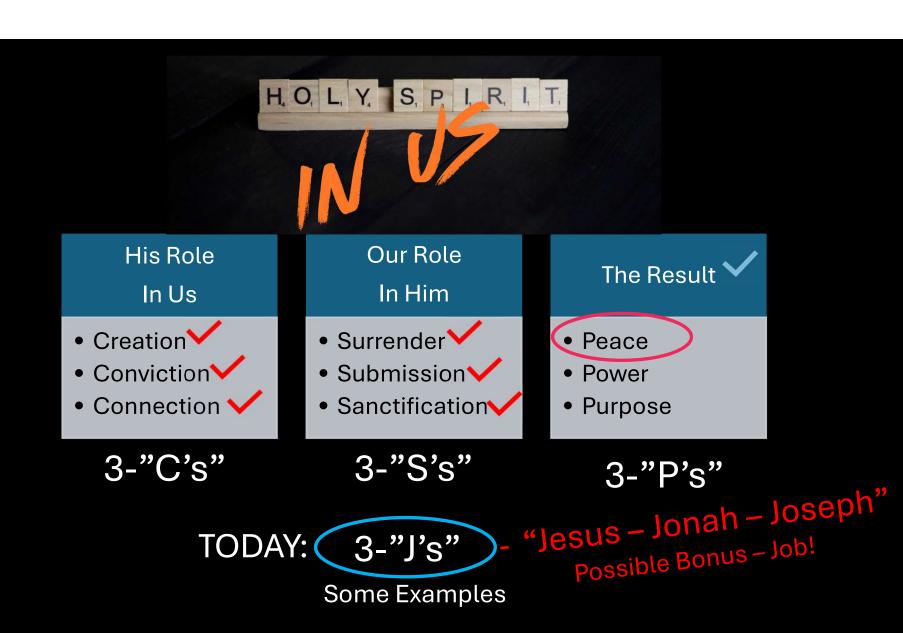
# H, O, L, Y, S, P, I, R, I, T,





"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." – Eph 2:10



### The Bottom Line-

- Peace is the absence of Conflict.
- Conflict can only be resolved through <u>Reconciliation</u>.
- The seed of <u>Reconciliation</u> is <u>Forgiveness</u>.
- Without <u>Forgiveness</u> there can be no <u>Peace</u>.
- No Forgiveness No Reconciliation Conflict Remains
- Hence No Peace!
- Forgiveness Is The Path to Peace!
- No Forgiveness? No Peace!

If you were to paint a picture of forgiveness — The colors on your palate would be ... - <u>beautiful</u> -

Holy Spirit your paint brush

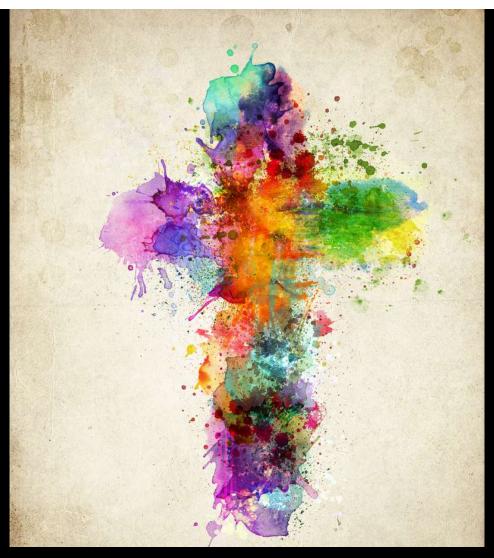
Your canvas the heart of another – or yourself.

The Colors?

The picture reveals?



Joy.
Peace.
Patience.
Kindness.
Goodness.
Faithfulness.
Gentleness.
Self Control.



Jesus Christ on the Cross.

### He is the picture we paint with our lives.

You would see in your painting – the image of:

- Forgiveness
- Reconciliation
- Peace



Jesus embodies all of these qualities!

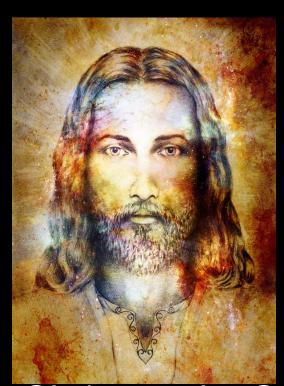
He is the Prince of Peace.

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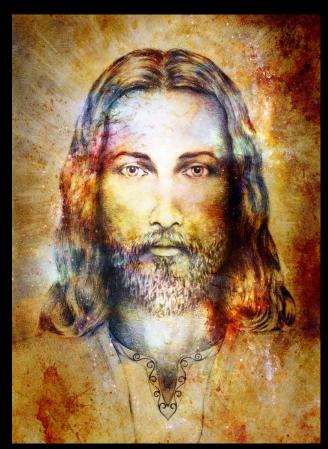
Jesus Christ on the Cross.

He is the picture we paint with our lives.

He has removed the conflicts we had with God –ourselves & mankind.

- We were at <u>enmity</u> with God!
  - He is our Reconciler.

Do you have peace?

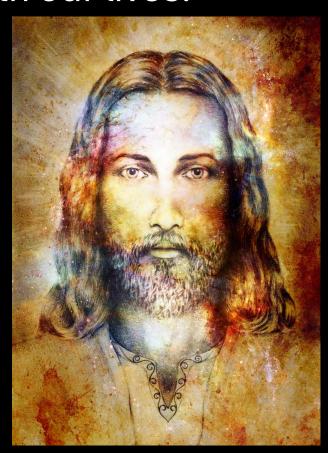


He is the picture we paint with our lives.

- Life's not trouble free.
- In this world you will have trouble -

"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world <u>you will</u> have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - John 16:33

We will face troubles – but in Christ we can have lasting peace. We <u>in</u> Him - Holy Spirit <u>in</u> us.



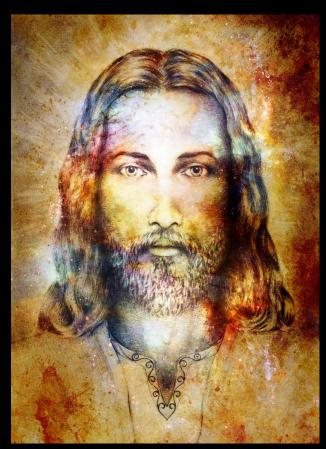
He is the picture we paint with our lives.

The greatest conflict you will ever have in life – will not be between you and other people - it is ...

between you and God –

Until you resolve your conflict with Him - you will never fully resolve your conflict with self – or mankind.

Get Right with God – So You Can Get Right With Man!



### My Theme Throughout This Message -

Is what Paul asked the Corinthians over their conflicts.

- they had these - "lawsuits, among them" - 1st. Cor. 6:7

– It's a Question we Need to continually ask Ourselves! What did he ask? –



"Wouldn't you rather be wronged?!"

This sentiment echoes what <u>Jesus</u> taught in the Beatitudes

<u>Matthew Chapter 5</u>

### "Wouldn't you rather be wronged?!"

- Matt. 5:9 Blessed [are] the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- ❖ v38 "You have heard it said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'
- ❖ v39-42 "But I tell you don't resist an evil person/if they slap you on your right cheek, give the left too/anyone 'sues' & takes away your shirt- let them have [your] coat also/force you to go one-mile? go two/"Give away to him who asks-and when they want to borrow –don't turn away.
- ❖ V43-44 "You've heard it said, "love your neighbor hate your enemy.' "but I say -love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who spitefully use and persecute you, ...
- 48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

### Be At Peace - WHY?

# WHY? Holy Spirit <u>In</u> You – Brings "Peace"

- That you may be Children of God.
- Children should look & act like their Father.

- Be Perfect like your Heavenly Father.
- Peace w/God first-then Peace within yourself and With Others Is Possible!

This is radical thinking ...

This is impossible without God (Holy Spirit) In Us!

Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; <u>my peace I give you</u>. 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

- You Can't Be a "Child Of God" Outside Of A Relationship with God!
- You Can't Be in Relationship w/God Without Being <u>Reconciled</u> to God!
- You Can't Be <u>Reconciled</u> To God without Faith in Jesus Christ!
- Without Faith In Christ Holy Spirit Is Not In You!
- ❖ A Follower of Christ knows this. *If you aren't quite sure stay with me -*
- Jesus is the great <u>Reconciler</u> in our lives.
- ❖ Webster says: "Reconciler" is one who restores to 'friendship'
- Christ Is the one who Restores us to Friendship with God!

It is - God <u>in you - His</u> peace - planted which grows till it flows. Holy Spirit in You. His Peace in you. Not as the World's gives peace. Not even your own peace – These Are Temporary!

You will never be at Peace w/ "others" – "your circumstances or even - "within" - unless you are First at Peace with- "God".

- You'll never make <u>this kind of peace</u> with the people in your life unless you are at peace with God.
  - ❖ You need a "Source" a Foundation!



❖ You'll never have peace in this life – with anyone or anything that happens to you - unless you make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life – 1<sup>st</sup> and always!

N. O. - JESUS - *NO PEACE* K. N. O. W. - JESUS - KNOW PEACE

### If you don't get this -

- You'll always be in conflict.
- Oh it may abate for awhile –
- But sooner or later you'll go about angry again frustrated

   worn down always looking over your shoulder waiting
   for the other shoe to drop that dark cloud just never
   seems to go away
- It may clear for a time but it comes back to torment and to taunt -
- You're carrying a burden you were never meant to bear.

My - 2nd <u>"J"</u> Example -

### Jonah – *Ninevah*

- Jonah had a <u>HUGE</u> (CONFLICT) With The Ninevites!
- Ran Away! Hid! Swallowed by a Whale He'd Rather Die!
- He Finally Went & Prophesied! But His Heart hadn't changed!
- ❖ He Never (in my opinion) Fully <u>Reconciled With God!</u>
- Hence he never <u>Made Peace</u> Within <u>himself</u> The <u>Ninevites</u> or <u>God!</u>
- Chapt. 4 Ninevites are saved but "<u>It displeased Jonah</u>" to Anger!
   When The Plant Dies He Told God he Was <u>"Angry Enough to Die"!</u>
- No Forgiveness? No Reconciliation! Conflict Remains No Peace!
- His True Conflict Wasn't The Ninevites It (Was with God!)

Jesus said ...

Matthew 11:29-30

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



The painting I referenced earlier - Christ on the Cross is a picture of Reconciliation.

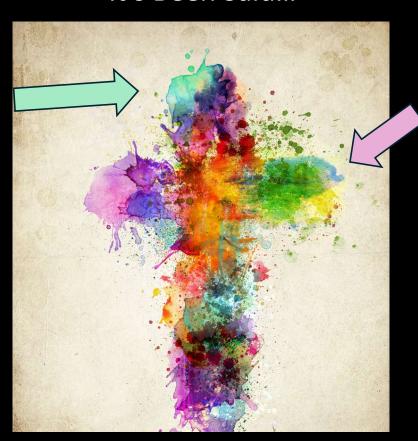
1st with God and 2nd with man.

### It's Been Said...

The Vertical Beam

Points To Heaven:

It Represents our Reconciliation with God



The Horizontal Beam

Points Side-to-Side:

It represents our Reconciliation among all mankind

Jesus' death Reconciled us to God. Then - through His example — of Selfless Sacrifice-He calls us to do the same as a "Child Of God" and be Reconciled to our fellow man.

### THERE IS - POWER IN THE WORD

Christ Is Our Reconciler!

Romans 5:6-9

Christ died for the ungodly v7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. v8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. v9 Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!

# THERE IS POWER IN THE WORD

Romans 5:10-11

### Reconciliation!

v10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

# THERE IS POWER IN THE WORD

Reconciliation!

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

v16 "So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. v17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! v18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

# THERE IS POWER IN THE WORD

### Reconciliation!

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

v19 - that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. v20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. v21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."



### Reconciliation!

There are over 300 scriptures on Peace alone in the Bible. So, we're just scratching the surface.

I hope we see that peace with God & others can only be had through:

- I. Jesus Christ The Great Reconciler the Prince of Peace.
- II. Through Holy Spirit Indwelling us!
- III. He has passed the baton to us We are ambassadors of His peace in this world. We've been given the ministry of reconciliation- to live it out -
- IV. We are called to model His behavior.
- V. We can't do this without what Christ did on the Cross & Holy Spirit in us!



### Reconciliation!

Paul speaking by the Holy Spirit said –

In Romans 12:18

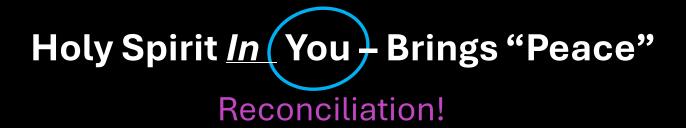
"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."



# IF YOU ARE NOT AT PEACE WITH GOD YOU CAN NEVER BE AT PEACE WITH MAN –AND YOU'LL NEVER HAVE PEACE WITHIN YOURSELF!

No peace? - No power – and No purpose.

A life without purpose is like a leaf tossed in the wind -



Oh – One More "J" – Example...

Joseph!

My - 3<sup>rd</sup> Example - Jesus was my first!

### Joseph – Eygypt

- Joseph had a <u>HUGE</u> (CONFLICT)W/his brothers & mankind!
- Brothers Threw in a ditch/left for dead/then sold him into slavery!
- ❖ He was wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife and imprisoned!
- He was an Interpreter of dreams but forgotten in prison by Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker for a number of years (2 -12?)
- Yet eventually He was elevated to The #2 position in Egypt
- When a Great Famine came over the Region Who came around?
- His brothers Would Joseph Forgive? <u>Did The Conflict Remain?</u> Would There/Could There Be Reconciliation? Peace?!



Joseph!

Genesis 50:20

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; [but] God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as [it is] this day, to save many people alive.



### His Role In Us

- Creation
- Conviction
- Connection

### Our Role In Him

- Surrender
- Submission
- Sanctification

### The Result

- Peace
- Power
- Purpose



