

“The Peace of Connectedness”

Ephesians 2:13-19

“The local church is the _____ of the world.”

- The church is to be a place where people can be real. Where relationships are formed and trusted, and a place of _____ and accountability.

One of the greatest _____ of every human heart is to belong.

“There is nothing like the local church when the local church is working right.”

“Community—living in vital connectedness with others—is essential to human life. Community is the place God made us for. Community is the place where God _____ us.”

Priority 1: Peace (Ephesians 2:14, 17).

- If we want our hearts and our churches to _____ with the priorities of Christ, then we must pray:

1) That our churches would be peaceful places. Places of mutual respect, of one mind, and of one mission

2) That the peace of God would be evident in our lives. If He really is the “God of all peace,” then our lives need to _____ it.

3) That the message of peace would be clear to those who are searching. All of our programs, ministries, and evangelism efforts _____ seekers to a peace like no other.

One of the beautiful ironies of the gospel:

- the _____ of Christ’s death is exactly what brings us peace.

Priority 2: Proximity (Ephesians 2:18).

- God’s Church exists not just to minister to the saints, but also to reach out to the lost.
- We must be connected with one another and also connected to those who need Christ as their Savior.

Romans 10:13-15

13 “Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

14 How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!”

(NAS)

God’s Church consists of a group of people who are _____ by Him to be the hope of our present age.

- All Disciples of Christ are called.
- For us to remain obedient we must _____ the call.