

2CH Sunday at 7.30

Talks from the NSW Council of Churches

Christmas Day 2011

Presented by Karl Faase

Christmas is a great time of year

Celebrations – gatherings – Christmas family lunches – church services – good feeling in the community

Key words – cards, banners, even shops

Peace - Joy –love

Yet we struggle to experience these at Christmas, so much happening, we feel living out peace, joy and love is a struggle

Seem like just nice ideas we never get to experience.

You're listening to [Sunday@7.30](#) on 2CH 11-70... I'm Karl Faase...in this week leading up to Christmas we are looking at the key words around Christmas that we struggle to experience, Peace, joy and love

Problem with all three words is what we think they mean and why we feel robbed of Peace joy and love.

Lets begin with peace

Peace – we believe it is the absence of conflict or trouble

Pressure of Christmas actually creates conflict, many counselors are very busy after Christmas because people are struggling with the conflict around the Christmas events.

Families don't always get on, and the family gathering can be difficult and painful

Jesus on peace -

- John 14:26-27

(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.)

- Many face conflict
- Christian belief in places creates conflict –parts of the world actual physical, in Australia it is the conflict from derision and sneering opposition
- Christians - find peace in the midst conflict

How

- Confidence in their position before God
- Confidence in the care of God
- Confidence in future security with God

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Joy – believe it is the absence of pain

Angles to shepherds

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord..”

- Joy at first Christmas in midst of pain

- birth,
- discomfort,
- insecurity,
- living under foreign power
- uncertain future

- Joy not absence of pain – Jesus & Bible

Heb 12:1-3

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame

Writer to Hebrews tells us there is joy in obedience, Jesus found joy in obeying His father – even in the midst of pain of the cross

James 1:2

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds

James is reminding us that difficult times build in us maturity and perseverance, we can be joyful in our personal growth out of trials.

You may feel you will be robbed of JOY this Christmas due to pressure, difficulty or pain. The Bible helps us to see that true and lasting joy can be found in these times and will not necessarily be absent due to pain.

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When it comes to love, we believe that the word “love” is about passion and overwhelming attraction to something or someone, we know we are in love because we feel it.

We can’t imagine love without feeling passion of some sort.

Love – in the absence of passion

- Believe love equals passion
- At times that is true
- Limerence – watching Gilmore Girls
- Love stops at end of limerance
- Love a decision of your will

1 John 4:9-11

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- Gods love decision of his will
- Love demonstrated at first Christmas
- Love shown by our choices and commitments around the Christmas season may sometimes be in the absence of passion but it is mostly demonstrated in the presence of commitmen

My hope for you this Christmas is that you will experience true peace, joy and love

Peace - perhaps in the midst of conflict

Joy – sometimes tinged with pain

Love – even if you don’t always feel the passion.

If you would like some encouragement in your life each day, go to dailnudge.org, and sign up for a “daily email” that will encourage you in your life and your faith, that’s daily nudge.org

From the whole team at 2CH’s Sundays@7.30 let me wish you a wonderful and blessed Christmas.