

# GAME PLAN

TEAM CONFLICT // Hebrews 12:14-15 // Pastor Dwayne Smith

## I. PEACE: We NEED it!

- a. What is PEACE?
  - i. "Peace" appears 429 times in the Bible. Everyone is talking about it.
    1. OT – *Shalōm*: Total well-being, prosperity, and security associated with God's presence among his people. Linked in the Old Testament with the Covenant...conditional upon Israel's obedience.<sup>1</sup>
    2. NT - *Irēnē*: Peace with God through Jesus (Acts 10:36-37), the New Covenant.<sup>2</sup>
  - ii. "Work" at peace: to follow, to pursue as in a race to reach a goal.<sup>3</sup>
- b. Why do we need it?
  - i. CONFLICT is normal (1 Peter 4:12, John 15 and 16).
  - ii. Peace is essential in conflict.
    1. Peace protects us and enables us to resolve conflict (John 16:33).
    2. Peace brings unity – essential in every conflict (Ephesians 4:3).
    3. Peace is our shield and defender. Peace is not absent in the storm, peace is ACTIVE (Philippians 4:7 and Luke 8).

## II. HOLINESS: The path to peace

- a. Holiness and peace are found together.
  - i. When "peace" is asked for, the answer given is "holiness."
  - ii. Jesus calls us to holiness – 1 Thessalonians 4:7, Romans 6:19.
  - iii. Peace is the presence of God in our lives (covenant relationship); "Holiness" marks God's presence - Moses (Exodus 3:5).
  - iv. Peace is the result of our lives being reconciled and transformed by God.
    1. Isaiah 32:17, "The fruit of that righteousness will be peace."
    2. Romans 5, "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."
- b. What is holiness?
  - i. "Holy is the way God is. To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He is that standard...whatever we think of as belonging to God must be thought of as holy."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). *Peace*. In *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 1634).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Blue Letter Bible

<sup>4</sup> Tozer, A.W. *The Knowledge of the Holy* (pp. 105-106). Fig. Kindle Edition.

- ii. Holiness is the “chief attribute of God and a quality to be developed in his people.”<sup>5</sup>
- iii. Holiness is “the effect of consecration: the sanctification of heart and mind.”<sup>6</sup>
- c. Holiness is commitment to God’s process:
  - i. Personal holiness is a work of gradual development (sanctification).<sup>7</sup>
  - ii. This process is a way of life: An athlete/team member does not wait until Game Day get ready. This is how you lose!
  - iii. An athlete knows that EVERYTHING affects them – they guard their health.
    - 1. What we “allow” in our lives has the opportunity to disciple us – to lead and eventually master us (1 Corinthians 6:12-20).
    - 2. We “become one” with what we allow ourselves to connect with.

### III. Peace enables us to take the field!

- a. Peace is not the end of the mission, **peace is the BEGINNING!**
- b. Jesus gave His disciples peace so they could go (John 20:19-22).
  - i. The disciples were hiding in fear of the Jewish leaders. Jesus shows up, gives them peace and immediately sends them out – “Take the field!”
  - ii. Peace is not the end of the mission; peace is the BEGINNING!
- c. Peace comes with a responsibility -
  - i. NT - *Irēnē*: “This gift of peace or reconciliation with God, made available through Christ, places an ethical demand on the Christian; it calls for the exercises of ‘peace’ ...that which marks one’s identity as a ‘child of God’” (Mt 5:9).<sup>8</sup>
  - ii. Peace guards our heart and our mind.
    - 1. Enables us to clearly hear from God and give us boldness and wisdom to speak the truth of the Gospel with love and grace in our hearts (Ephesians 4).
    - 2. Speak in order to reconcile – this is the heart of God (Proverbs 15:1, James 1:19).
    - 3. Stay away from “foolish arguments” (2 Timothy 2:23).

#### Reflection Questions:

- Where is my level of peace—full, low, or empty?
- What resonates or stands out to me as I think about “holiness?” Am I committed to God’s process and work of sanctification in my life?
- Am I ready to “take the field?” What is holding me back?
- What steps do I need to take towards peace, holiness, and God today?

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<sup>5</sup> Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). *Holiness*. In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 984).

<sup>6</sup> Blue Letter Bible

<sup>7</sup> Easton, M. G. (1893). In *Easton’s Bible dictionary*. New York: Harper & Brothers.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.