

2. IS PERSONAL PEACE POSSIBLE?

THREE SOURCES OF TENSION IN OUR LIVES:

1. When we can't control our _____.
2. When we can't change certain _____.
3. When we can't explain our _____.

Jehovah Shalom = "I am the God of Peace"

"I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."

John 14:27 (LB)

"I told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have trouble, but be brave! I have defeated the world." John 16:33 (NCV)

PRINCIPLES THAT WILL PRODUCE PEACE IN YOUR LIFE:

1. _____ what cannot be changed!

David and his dying son—2 Samuel 12:15-23

"What's going on with you? While the child was alive you fasted and wept and stayed up all night. Now that he's dead, you get up and eat." "While the child was alive," he said, "I fasted and wept, thinking God might have mercy on me and the child would live. But now that he's dead, why fast? Can I bring him back now? I can go to him, but he can't come to me."

2 Samuel 12:21-23 (MSG)

"I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I am poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty. I have

WHAT WE
NEED
MOST

learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens, when I have enough to eat and when I go hungry, when I have more than I need and when I do not have enough. I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength." Philippians 4:11-13 (NCV)

When you demand an explanation remember:

- God doesn't owe you an explanation for anything.
- Even if He did explain why things happen the way they do, you probably wouldn't understand it all.
- explanations never bring peace anyway.

THE SERENITY PRAYER:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time
Enjoying one moment at a time
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is not as I would have it
Trusting that You, God, will make all things right if I surrender to Your will
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen."

Notes: _____

Bible Translations:

New Century Version (NCV); The Living Bible (LB); The Message Paraphrase (MSG).

Sermon based on a series by Rick Warren of Saddleback Church.