

God's Silent Sentry

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 City Serve Leadership Mtg - Mobilizing 30 churches, on 1st weekend of March, performing *community service projects* in our Valley. 1-3pm, in Agape Rm. Javier Garcia
- B. Slide3 Women's Christmas Celebration - Baked Goods. *Rancho Damacitas* (read back flyer)
- C. Slide4 Christmas Opportunities - This year we decided **not** to do our *Gifts for Eternity*.
 1. We obviously still want to encourage your *generosity* this Christmas season.
 2. *Partner w/our community*. We have flyer's in the info booth w/a # of opportunities. You can help locally or abroad with either **servicing** or **finances**.
- D. Slide5 Justice Sunday - Jan 24th. *Volunteers needed*, contact Kelly. *Wait till you meet/hear Shyima Hall* a true story of a modern day child slave, in OC.[Hidden Girl] Sandra Morgan
- E. Slide6 Machaca Discipleship - John Gotz

II. Slide7 Intro: God's Silent Sentry

- A. Blessed are the **peacemakers**, For they shall be called sons of God.
 1. (msg) You're blessed when you can show people how to **cooperate** instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.
- B. The Bible's a book of **Peace** [approx 400 x's]
 1. **It opens w/peace & ends w/it**. In between, **wars** arose because of *Satan & man's disobedience*.
 2. Peace in the bible is much more than *the absence of war*, it is a positive force. *It signifies the presence of all that is good & wonderful*.
- C. Slide8 Peace = *an inner-togetherness. An orderliness. It's being together inside*.
 1. Augustine called it, *a tranquility of order*.
- D. Billy Graham once wrote, *Jesus didn't leave a material inheritance to His disciples. All He had when He died was a robe, which went to the Roman soldiers; His mother, whom He turned over to His brother John; His body, which He gave to Joseph of Arimathea; and His Spirit, which returned to His Father. But Jesus willed His followers something more valuable than gold, more enduring than vast landholdings and more to be desired than palaces of marble - He willed us His peace.*

1. Slide9a **Peace** I leave with you, **My peace** I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Jn.14:27
2. Perhaps you, too, are facing *unknowns*.
3. **Peace** in the face of *uncertainty* is indeed a precious gift.
 - a) Slide9b Given to us by the *Prince of Peace* Himself, it's available to us not only during this Christmas season **but** year-round. *Jesus willed us His peace*.

III. Slide10 **HOW TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD**

- A. He does not tell us here *how to become* a son of God. He simply says that sons of God are in fact peacemakers.
- B. To see *how to become* children of God we can look at...
 1. John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*
 2. Gal.3:26 *For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

IV. Slide11 **HOW TO BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD**

- A. The children of God have the *character* of their Father.
- B. Paul tells us that the Father is *the God of peace* (Rom.16:20) **and** that *heaven is a world of peace, Peace in heaven and glory in the highest*. Lk.19:38. **And, God is a peacemaker.**
 1. 2 Cor.5:19 *For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.* Col.1:20 *having made peace through the blood of His cross.*
 - a) So by nature we rebelled against God, have committed high treason, **&** are worthy to be eternally court-marshaled, **and** hanged by the neck until dead, **nevertheless** God has sacrificed his own Son **and now** declares amnesty, *free and clear*, to any who will lay down their arms of independence **and** come home to **faith**.
 2. Slide12 God is a peace-loving God, **and** a peacemaking God.
 - a) **Therefore**, God's children are that way, too. They have the *character* of their Father. *What he loves they love. What he pursues they pursue.* You can know His children by whether they are willing to *make sacrifices for peace* the way God did. **If He is**

a peacemaker, then his children, who have His nature, will be peacemakers too.

V. Slide13 THE SOURCE OF PEACE IS GOD

- A. When some one comes out w/a product, & it sells, everyone tries to get in on the action. **But** it's never the same as the original. [*Bazooka Bubble Gum*. Has anyone been able to match it?]
1. And **no one** has been able to match **God's Peace**. 6x's NT He's called *The God of Peace*
- B. He is **the God of Peace** as far as **His Person** is concerned.
1. There are no conflicts in the nature of God.
 2. Slide14 We Christians have a battle within, **because** we have a **higher & lower nature**, **but** that's not so w/God. He is always **at perfect peace** w/Himself. He is **Yahweh Shalom** as Gideon called Him. Judges 6:24
 - a) Peace defined: *The doctrine that God is separate from all confusion and disorder in his being and in his actions, yet he is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions.* Grudem
- C. He also is **the God of Peace** as far as **His Will** is concerned.
1. Jer.29:11 **For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of Peace & not of evil, to give you a Future & a Hope.**
 - a) He thinks about us. And, His thoughts are for **our peace** to accomplish a **perfect purpose** for our lives.
- D. Slide15 **Our Heavenly Father** is *the God of Peace*. **Our Savior** is *the Prince of Peace*. **The H.S.** is *the Spirit of Peace*.
- E. **So**, the **Source** of our Peace is God. There is **no other source** of true Peace.
If we are to be **Peacemakers**, we must **know God &** draw upon **His** supply of **peace**.

VI. Slide16 THE ENEMY OF PEACE IS SIN

- A. A believer *living in sin* is a great **Troublemaker**, **not** a **Peacemaker**, because **sin** is the enemy of Peace.
- B. **God has 3 enemies**: **our flesh** is His enemy (Rom.8:5-8). **The world** is His enemy (James 4:4). **The Devil** is His enemy (Mt.13:39).
1. When we side w/these enemies we declare War on God.

2. This is why so much trouble results when Christians get **out of** the will of God:
 - a) **Abraham** fleeing to Egypt. **David** w/Bathsheba. **Jonah** was almost the cause of a shipwreck & the death of a whole crew of pagans.
3. If I'm at war w/God because there is **sin** in my life, then I cannot be a **Peacemaker**

VII. Slide17 **THE DISPENSER OF PEACE IS THE CHRISTIAN** or minister of peace

- A. Slide18a We have experienced it & can share it.
 1. We **once** *didn't* have it...Titus 3:3 *At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures.*
 2. We **now** have it...Rom.5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 3. His Peace **continues** to provide...*An interior coat of armor over our inner man.* Phil.4:7 *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
- B. Slide18b We begin this ministry by making peace w/our **brother**. *1st by controlling our anger.* Mt.5:21-26
 1. God accepts no gifts w/o a right heart. **Worship & warfare** cannot exist at the same altar.
- C. Slide18c We also minister by making peace w/our **enemies**.
 1. Mt.5:44,45b context is loving enemy...*that you may be sons of your Father.*
 2. It isn't Peace at **any** price.
 - a) Peace at the expense of *honesty & humility* will only lead to **more war**.
 - b) **A false peace** is more dangerous than an **open war** (problems are only covered over).
 - c) James 3:17 *the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable,...* (1st **pure** than **peaceable**) [note: 6th beatitude was **pure**, 7th is **peace**]
- D. Slide18d Christians should *bring peace* between people at odds with God & at odds with each other. - As *ministers of peace* we share *the gospel of peace*.
 1. **So**, a peacemaker is a bridge builder.
 - a) **Abigail** was a true **peacemaker** whose courage spared **David**, the future king of Israel, from committing a terrible sin against her foolish husband Nabel.

2. Slide18e D. De Haan - *How blest are those who persevere, To bring a conflict to an end; And if the peace of Christ takes hold, An enemy becomes a friend.*

VIII. Slide19 THE PAYOFF OF PEACE IS GODLINESS

- A. Our payment is *Godliness*, God-like, we become like our Father.
 1. Children are like their parents. *A chip off the Ol' divine block.*
- B. Those whose lives *reflect kingdom ethics* will be identified as children of God.
 1. Rom.8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*
 2. *Led by the Spirit of God* describes living under the control & empowerment of the Spirit.
 3. *Sons of God* this language invokes OT terminology for Israel as God's son Ex4:23
 - a) It was also language used for *God's divine family and bureaucracy.*
 - b) This verse associates *OT ideas* of *divine sonship* with *the Church.*
 - c) *Believers* become part of God's family by adoption.

IX. Slide20 THE PROCESS OF PEACE IS DIFFICULT

- A. Slide21 When Jesus says, *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God*, He is, in essence, saying, *Making peace is difficult. I am asking you to do a lonely thing*
 1. Many *marriage counselors* will confirm the fact that when a marriage is in trouble, both partners often seek allies, people who will side with them; *rarely* does one of the troubled partners seek the dispassionate person who will listen to both sides and help bring about a reconciliation.
 2. *Sometimes* in a dispute there is clearly an injured party, one who is wronged. *At other times*, two pots simply began to boil on two different burners.
 3. When two or more *people* are in a dispute, *or* two or more *countries* are in a dispute, both seek control, both seek to dominate. Almost invariably, each disputant is convinced that he or she is right, even the one who has done the injuring. *Peacemakers who step forward & do not take sides are not popular people*
 - a) Slide22 *Peacemaking* is not the same as *peace-achieving*. We don't always succeed.

- b) A peacemaker **longs** for peace, and **works** for peace, and **sacrifices** for peace. **But** the *attainment* of peace may not come.
- c) **Slide23** Thus Rom.12:18 says, *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.* Just don't let the rupture in the relationship be your fault.

B. Wrap Up:

- C. **Slide24** We experience: *Peace with God @ Salvation. Peace of God* during our Sanctification And *Eternal Peace @ Glorification.*
- D. Once we've made our *peace with God*, then we can experience the *peace of God*.
1. The 1st is **judicial**, the 2nd **experiential**.
- E. **Slide25** Phil. 4:7 and **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will **guard** your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- F. **Slide26** *Guard your hearts – A military term picturing soldiers standing on guard duty & refers to the guarding of the city gate from within, as a control on all who went out.* LKGNT
1. **Guard** - to keep, or a garrison. *Like peace soldiers. A peacekeeping force guarding something valuable, it's guarding your heart, emotions & your mind.*
 2. **Slide27,28** It's *God's silent sentry* that protects your mind, emotions, & will.
 3. The 1st peace we talked about was a peace we could KNOW, this is a peace we can FEEL/experience.
 - a) It's a peace that holds us steady.
 - b) It's a peace that transcends all understanding. [we can feel/sense/experience it, even while not fully *understanding* it]
 - c) It's a peace that guards.
 - (1) [stalker story] Our family had the privilege of having a Marine, Sgt Maj David Barragan, just back from Iraq, camo'd out sit in our bushes all night so we could get sleep [I never slept so good. Anxiety every noises kept me up for nights].
 - (a) He was good too! My doberman at the time never knew he was there...*In the middle of the night Rambo went to relieve himself on the bush Dave was hiding behind.* Never even smelt him.

- (2) Listen, here's my point...I never saw Dave that night, but I knew he was there, & was comforted by his presence.
- (3) In Phil.4:7 God simply wants to place a *camo'd out marine* in the bushes of your heart, for your peace of mind.

G. Slide29 May the peace of God *guard us* & the God of peace *go with us*.