Advent - Class #2

PEACE

A Biblical Definition

- The Old Testament Hebrew word:
  - שָׁלוֹם - *shalom* - complete or whole. Something which is complex, with many pieces, but in a state of wholeness.
- The New Testament Greek word
  - εἰρήνη - *eiréné* - also means complete or whole.

1 Samuel 17:17-18

[17] And Jesse said to David his son, “Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. [18] Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well ***(shalom)***, and bring some token from them.”

Proverbs 16:7

[7] When a man’s ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace ***(shalom)*** with him.

Ephesians 2:11-16

[11] Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—[12] remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. [13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [14] For he himself is our peace **(eire’ne’)**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [15] by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace **(eire’ne’)**, [16] and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

Ephesians 4:1-6

[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace **(eire'ne')**. [4] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—[5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

What does peace require of us?

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Bearing with one another in love
- An eagerness to maintain unity of the Spirit

Questions to consider this week:

- Where do you find a lack of peace in your life?
- Where do you need to be an agent of shalom/eire'ne'?
- Which of the marks of a peace-bringer are easiest for you? Which are more challenging?

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