

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Re-gifting

How's Christmas shopping going?

- **Do you like gift shopping?**
- Do you shop early or late?
- **Who** do you shop for, and **why?**
- **What type** of gifts do you like to give?
- **Do you like** to give gifts?
- **Do you relate to God by giving gifts?**

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John 3:16-17, "For **God so loved** the world **that He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but **that the world through Him might be saved.**"

- **God so loved** that **He gave**
- He gave **to someone for someone**
- He gave **at His own expense**
- For **the benefit of others**

.....
Yet, no matter what (or who) is given...

If not received, no benefit results.

John 1:12, "He came to His own, and His own **did not receive Him**. But **as many as received Him**, to them **He gave the right to become children of God**, to those who believe in His name"

Matthew 12:47-50, God has no grandchildren

And His lineage is not genetic

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So, **what did God give** for Christmas?

- Certainly, He gave His Son to Mary
- Yet none other can receive Him like her
- What of Christ are we to receive?

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Luke 2:14,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and **on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.**"

I suggest **God's Christmas gift is peace**

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If we believe what the angels said...

God could not be glorified more than by giving this gift!

- Among humanity, **only He has it to give**
- **Everyone since Adam lacks this gift**
- It is only ours by **receiving it from Him**

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What astounded people about Jesus?

(The most **pious** & most **flagrant sinners**)

He didn't pass judgement on them (**John 3:17**)

John 8:3-11

- The woman caught in adultery

Vs. 10-11,

Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"

"No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

She didn't deny it. Neither did He.

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What is peace, **how** do we get it and **what** do we do with it?

Peace is restored relational security

As we've said, we can't give what we don't have

- **How?** We receive it from Him
- **What?** We give it away in His behalf

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What about sin?

The Peace of Christ **solves** it by **healing** it

How can people believe **we're offering it?**

By convincing them **we're not looking for an opportunity to condemn them**

Of course, **we must first receive** this gift

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On earth peace to those **on whom his favor rests**

- On earth, here and now
- Among those who enjoy His favor

Who enjoys His favor?

- **Those who believe Him and receive Him**
- Not just what He's done for us
- Who and what He is
- **Receiving who He is changes who we are**
- We are toward other as He is toward us

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Matthew 6:10,

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

John 20:21, So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"

I John 4:17, "This is how **love is made complete among us** so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: **In this world we are like Jesus.**"

This is not the day of judgment. It is the day of **grace, mercy & peace among those who receive who He is into who we are...** in the midst of those dying of sin, sorrow and condemnation.

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Perfect peace will be restored **when The Prince of Peace returns.**

- **Those who have received Him** will have confidence
- Those who have not **will have earned eternal sorrow**

From now until that day...

- **Get all you can, and**
- **Give all you can**

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In the name of Him who **IS Peace...**

Merry Christmas!

On earth **Peace!** Good will **toward everyone.**