

Introduction: How do you find life, hope, and peace in a world that is really messed up?

“Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

-Saint Francis of Assisi

Paul tells us how it works:

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 2:20

The gateway to the deepest relationships, peace that never leaves, and hope that never fades actually begins with death; because when there is no death, there can be no resurrection.

Four basic questions:

1. How did we get here?

The impact of the _____ (when sin entered the world) separated us from:

- God
- Each other
- Ourselves

2. Where is God in the chaos?

Jesus came and did a _____ to rescue us.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

John 3:16-17

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

3. What gives Jesus the right to make an outlandish offer?

Jesus makes the offer based on four things:

1. His _____ – sinless and revealing God’s character 2 Corinthians 5:21
2. His _____ Colossians 2:9-15
3. His _____ Acts 1-2
4. He wants to be in union and relationship with us. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

4. What is the counterintuitive path that brings life, hope, and peace?

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12:24

Two options:

- **Option A:** Remain in denial.
- **Option B:** Die to my way and ask God to come into my life so I can follow Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did this message give you a better understanding of the true meaning of Easter?
2. According to Galatians 2:20, what does “dying to ourselves” mean?
3. How did Jesus divinely intervene to rescue us?
4. What might be hindering you from a genuine relationship with the Lord?
5. Read Romans 12:1-2. What are some practical ways you can renew your mind this week?