

SERMON TOPIC: CHRISTMAS TRUCE

SERMON OUTLINE

On the 28 July 1914 was the start of one of the most gruesome wars in the worlds' history. Today it is commonly known as World War 1.

It is estimated that 9 million combatant deaths and 13 million civilian deaths occurred during this war. In the week leading up to 25 December 1914, French, German, and British soldiers crossed trenches to exchange seasonal greetings and talk. In some areas, men from both sides ventured into no man's land on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to mingle and exchange food and souvenirs. There were joint burial ceremonies and prisoner swaps, while several meetings ended in carol-singing. Men played games of football with one another, creating one of the most memorable images of the truce.^[1] Hostilities continued in some sectors, while in others the sides settled on little more than arrangements to recover bodies.

Overview:

It took someone who was willing to abandon their weapons, their strategy and take the first step and focus on what united then rather than what divided them. When that finally happened, the soldiers changed and were not willing to fight the next day.

Today we can take the same steps to call truce in our own relationship. The biblical word for truce is reconcile., which means to bring the balance to ZERO.

Through Jesus God has brought our balance to ZERO. Just as Jesus' mission was to reconcile us, our mission must be to reconcile with those in our lives. Whether they can receive it or not, because we are reconciled, we must try and reconcile with others.

2 Cor 5 v 18 (MSG)

All this comes from the God who settled relationship between us and Him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other.

Key Questions:

1. Are there any relationships that are damaged/broken?
 - a. Identify how you could take the first step to reconciling this relationship.
2. Identify the weapons (silence, deceit, anger, manipulation, etc.) in the past that you have used, and make a concerted effort to not give it any power.
3. How can you take that step toward reconciliation in your relationships, knowing it may not be reciprocated?

SUMMARY:

Thank God for His Son, and how through His sacrifice, we have been reconciled to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any areas where you can grow closer to God and where you can receive strength to take the first step.

**REMEMBER - FOR YOU TO BE TRULY COURAGEOUS, YOU NEED TO BE COMPLETELY FULNERABLE!!
FULNERABLE = PUTTING AWAY YOUR WEAPONS**