

# MAKING PEACE

AN ADVENT TEACHING SERIES . 2009



## questions for reflection

### series: "Making Peace"

Peace is a word thrown around casually and without much understanding. It is simultaneously a cause, the absence of conflict, a desired state of mind, and the hopeful resting place of those deceased. But the advent (arrival) of Jesus offers us peace in place of enmity – peace with God, peace with each other, and peace within our self. Therefore as Christ followers, what does it look like to follow Jesus by making peace in our daily rhythms, lives, and world?

### part 5:

"Making Peace with Your Past"

by Chip Anderson on Tuesday December 29, 2009

New Year's is a great time for reflection. We have the unique ability to look back over the past year, while staring the New Year and all of its potential in the face.

- What are you proud of from 2009?
- What regrets do you have about 2009?
- What are you looking forward to in 2010?
- How will 2010 be different than 2009?

If our inability to keep New Year's resolutions is any indication of our ability to change ourselves, where must we look for power to make 2010 different than 2010?

Jesus mentions in Matthew, Mark and Luke, that truly loving God takes a complete, holistic love that encompasses our heart, soul, strength and mind.

- How does the Bible's idea of holistic (complete) redemption match up with your understanding of redemption?
- What does it look like to love God holistically?
- In which of these four areas are you deficient in your love for God?

James 1:8 reveals to us an important understanding about how people think. He tells us that a "double-minded person is unstable in all they do."

- What does it mean to be "double-minded?"
- What is the danger in being "double-minded?"
  - o How can this affect a relationship with God?

Chip proposed the thought that in order to change our behavior we need to change our thinking. He taught that Jesus seeks to save us in all areas of our lives, including our mind and the way we think.

- How can you turn your thinking from that which conforms to culture to that which is transformed into God's thoughts?
- In what ways can God transform your thinking?
- What steps do you need to take in order to think more like Jesus?
- Are there any thought patterns or routines which you need to change in order to live a life that is more in line with the teachings of Jesus?