

Lesson 24
Colossians 3:15-17

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13-Jan-2024

*** Start Recorder ***



Announcements:

- **Movie Recommendation: "Jesus Revolution" - Netflix**
 - True story of the 70's hippie Jesus movement.
 - Focused on Pastor Chuck Smith and the birth of Calvary Chapel.
 - Maranatha Music was also born out of Calvary Chapel.
 - Costa Mesa, Greg Laurie, Raul Ries churches in top 25 megas.
- **Embracing Destiny Foundation (EDF):** Meets in two weeks.
 - A ministry of Iron Men and staffed by us.
 - Still needing 2-3 volunteer counselors.
 - Background check release form.
- **Building the Ministry: You need us; we need you!**
 - Each of us is here because we were invited.
 - Make a *habit* of inviting men to join us.
 - Invite your church buddies and other men of the church.
 - Invite dad, adult sons, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and co-workers.
 - Invite any adult male believer without a church home.
- **Small Groups Forming Now:**
 - Bring your Bibles and perhaps a notebook or a prayer journal.
 - Several have stepped up to lead; need to form a new group.
 - You may be invited to join a group, but you can choose your own.
- **Short Admin Meeting Afterward:**
 - Jae Javillionar – Communications Manager
 - Ben Basquez – Webpage Manager

Colossians 3:15-17 (13-Jan-2024)

Colossians 3:15 (NOTES)

- “peace of Christ” - What is the peace of Christ? It is a cherished value of the true Christian, and a spiritual fruit, born in the regeneration and indwelling of the Holy Spirit and manifest in an inner desire for peace, along with a willingness to work sacrificially toward peace. This value, desire, and willingness to pursue peace is a gift from God, hence the phrase, "Peace of Christ."
 - Joh 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you ... ”*
 - Php 4:7 *“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*
- From the phrase, “which is the perfect bond of unity,” in the previous verse, and “to which indeed you were called in one body,” in the present verse, and the plural, "hearts," also in the present verse, sets the context of the command to "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" as within the body of Christ, among the brethren, within the local Church, which is where discord breaks out. The Gnostic false teachers in the church at Colossae were unbelievers, agents of Satan, and sowing discord and creating division with their false teaching.
 - Jude 13-14, 19-20 *"wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever ... These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit ... "*

- Paul is commanding that the members of the church at Colossae be at peace among themselves. His command presumes the brethren's capability of maintaining peace among themselves, and it establishes the obligation of each Christian to work at maintaining peace in the body. This is accomplished first by the commitment to obey the command, and second by the obedient actions of each individual member.
- Let God's peace "rule" = Lit. - sit as umpire (Gr. - brabeuo). Let the spiritual obligation to be at peace with one another "make the calls" in your heart, give you discernment to see where unity is breaking down, and to guide your actions in pursuing peace. In essence, be a proactive peacemaker.
 - Mt 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers ... "
 - Mr 9:50 "Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."
 - Ro 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."
 - 1Pe 3:10-11 "For, THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS ... MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT [must want it and work at it]."
- "in your hearts" - Purpose peace in your heart for the body of Christ, which starts at home, and not just with your words. Allow the desire in your heart for peace to motivate your actions.
 - Heb 12:14 "Pursue peace with all men ... "
 - Eph 4:2-3 "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

- “to which indeed you were called in one body” - We are called to be at peace with one another in the body of Christ, so that we might live in unity as "one body." Unity is the goal of peace. This phrase, "you were called in one body," means that we have an inner desire and motivation (a calling) to pursue unity through peace. It is there, in our hearts, prompting us. The application is that we must allow those prompts, those desires to motivate us. We must not suppress our heart's desire for peace, but rather act on it.

Discussion: What are some ways we can pursue peace with one another?

- Prayer - Prayer for peace and unity both at home and in the Body, for discernment on how to influence or intervene, for the truth to come out and be acknowledged, for hearts to be tendered toward one another, for repentance and forgiveness, and for the reconciliation of parties at odds with one another. This was Christ's desire in His high priestly prayer. Here are two excerpts from a much longer prayer:
 - John 17:20-23 "“I am not asking on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and You loved them, just as You loved Me.”"
- Intervention - Reaching out to the offending party or the offended party to appeal for reconciliation. There are biblical steps to follow:

- The Offendee - Matt 5:23-24 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.
- The Offender - Matt 18:15-17 Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- "and be thankful" - (Gr. - ginomai + eucharistos = BECOME grateful)
Develop an appreciation for your membership in this Body, and out of your gratefulness, pursue the peace that preserves its unity and tranquility. Be thankful for the desire for peace, for the fruit of peace in your life, and in our local Body of believers.

Colossians 3:16 (NOTES)

- "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you" - Not the whole Bible, per se, but the Gospel - the true faith, as opposed to the false gospel of the Gnostics. Let Christ's peace rule your behavior and attitudes; and let Christ's Word be the basis of your faith. The Gnostics had tried to undermine the Word of God by introducing destructive heresies.
 - 2Pe 2:1 "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies ... "

- Paul calls the church at Colossae to give the Word of Christ its due preeminence. The message of Christ deserves the proper high place in their hearts - for it alone is the true Gospel. By the command to “Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you,” Paul is also saying “Do NOT give place to Gnostic heresies. If any of you have fallen prey to the Gnostic heresies, displace them with the true Gospel.”
- “with all wisdom teach(ing) and admonish(ing) one another” - Don’t allow the Gnostic heresies to stand. “with all wisdom teach” the true Gospel, and "with all wisdom ... admonish" those who follow the Gnostic’s heresies.
- Be wise in your instruction. Wisdom is the skillful application of knowledge. That is, properly apply the Word of Christ. Apply the Word of Christ not only personally, but also apply it to one another and so build up the body of Christ in strength and unity. Don’t just accept what you are told, but verify what is true against the Scriptures.
 - Acts 17:11 “Now these [Bereans] were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the Word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”
- “with psalms, hymns, [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” - As the Word of Christ dwells richly in your mind and heart, let it move you to sing with thanksgiving in your heart toward God for the true hope of His salvation.
- “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” - Psalms refer to the OT, namely the canonized Scriptures of the time. Hymns and spiritual songs refer to the music written by Christians.

- Note that Christian music should be used, not only as praise and worship and thanksgiving to God, but also to teach and admonish the body of Christ. The old hymns of the faith are so full and rich with doctrine as to be preferred in this regard to some of the more modern praise choruses. A good mix is best.
 - Lu 24:44 *“Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things that are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”*

Colossians 3:17 (NOTES)

- “Whatever you do in word or deed” - What we say (word) and what we do (deed) are outward expressions of the condition of the heart and the inner man’s character. Why doesn’t Paul write, “Whatever you do in thought, word, or deed do so in the Name of Christ”? He has already addressed the inner man and his thoughts in the previous two verses by commanding that we be motivated and ruled by the peace of Christ and instructed and guided by the Word of Christ. Now, Paul is concerned with actions, which is the application of the previous two verse’s instruction. Once the heart is prepared and submitted to God, right actions can and will follow.
- “[do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus,” - The motivation for everything we say and do should be held in check by the “peace of Christ” - will this promote or destroy peace? The guidance for everything we say and do should be informed by the “Word of Christ” - is this biblical or fleshly?
- **Discussion:** What does it mean to "do all in the Name of Jesus"?

- The things we say and do as Christians reflects on Christ.

- Everything we say or do should:
 - Honor and glorify Him.
 - Accurately represent Him.
 - Conform to the His character and His will.
 - Please and bless Him.
 - Be affirmed by Him.
 - Be given 100% of our resources and effort.
 - Build up and edify His Church.
 - Promote peace and unity in the Body.
 - Uphold the doctrines of the faith.
 - In the knowledge that He purchased us with His blood.
 - In thanksgiving for His sacrifice and our salvation.
 - As under His authority.
 - As at His direction.
 - Col 3:23-25 "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. 25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality."
 - Ro 14:8 "for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."
 - 1Co 10:31 "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
 - 2Co 5:15 "and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

- 1Pe 4:11 "Whoever speaks, [is to do so] as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves [is to do so] as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Conclusion: Both the first and last verses of our text this morning ended with commands regarding thanksgiving - "become thankful" (vs. 15), and "giving thanks through Him to God the Father" (vs. 17). Paul is instructing us in the preparation of our hearts before we speak and act. But then Paul instructs us to be thankful after we speak and act. Having surrendered our hearts to His purposes - peace, unity, the true Gospel, His honor and glory, and having spoken and acted consistent with His purposes, pride says He should thank us. We thank Him who gave us a new heart and nature through regeneration, His Word to save and sanctify us, the Holy Spirit to indwell and guide us, the desire and strength to obey Him, and the resources to accomplish His will.

Application: Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you're having trouble accepting in these doctrines? Did anything stand out that may prompt you to do further study? Do you feel confident that you can explain the doctrines of deity and trinity to your family, other believers, nonbelievers?

Closing Benediction: Jude 1:24-25 *"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen."*

Closing Prayer

Small Groups