

Do All in the Name of the Lord Jesus

Colossians 3:15-17 – July 25, 2010

- **Be _____ by the Peace of Christ**
Colossians 3:15a

When we follow the _____ of God we will
experience the _____ of God.

Philippians 4:6-7

To have peace with God is our _____.
To have peace with our brethren is our _____.

- **Be _____ Colossians 3:15b**

Psalm 103:8, 10

- **Be _____ with God's _____**
Colossians 3:16a

“THE WORD OF CHRIST”

“RICHLY DWELL”

- **Be Expressive of this Rich Indwelling via _____**
Colossians 3:16b

“TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER”

“PSALMS” – Songs that _____ Scripture.

“HYMNS” – Songs that _____ or express doctrine.

“SPIRITUAL SONGS”

“WITH THANKFULNESS”

“IN YOUR HEARTS”

- **Be _____ of Christ in Everything**
Colossians 3:17

The believer's life is to be governed by a desire to _____
Christ in everything.

“All in the name of the Lord Jesus” is the guide for living in the
_____ areas.

Wrap Up:

My NEXT STEP for This Week

- Attempt to make “peace” with an estranged loved one.
- Tell family or friends why you can be “thankful.”
- Get back to memorizing selected verses in Colossians 3.
- Sing with joy (focus on the meaning of our songs today).

Do All in the Name of the Lord Jesus

Colossians 3:15-17 – July 25, 2010

Intro: We have spent the last two Sunday talking about what the well-dressed believer wears. We're not talking about clothes ... we're talking about taking off the rags of the old nature – immorality and sins of attitude and sins of the tongue ... and putting on the clothes of the new self. The new self puts on or dresses up in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. And the well-dressed believer will forgive others as love permeates their being.

A privileged status before God motivates us to put on these godly traits. What is the believer's privileged status? It is found in verse 12.

Colossians 3:12

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

Three things motivate us to put on the right spiritual clothing

1st – CHOSEN OF GOD – God's act in eternity past ... in choosing His family

2nd – HOLY – Jesus Christ gave us His righteousness when we were born-again (II Cor. 5:21)

3rd – BELOVED – God's view of us as His own ... as His child ... as a member of His family

So we are *motivated* by being chosen ... by being made holy ... by becoming God's beloved. And when this happens ... we'll be a well-dressed believer – dressed in godly attitudes and actions.

On the heels of putting these things on ... we are going to look at five things that follow ... found in verses 15-17. Look at these verses with me ...

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

The first thing that follows is found in the phrase ... our first point ...

➤ **Be GOVERNED by the Peace of Christ**

Colossians 3:15a

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts ...

All during the day we are making decisions. We need help in making them. It is decision-making about doing or not doing what is pleasing to God.

The word “**RULE**” is an athletic term referring to an *umpire*. An umpire is one who presides or arbitrates inside our heart and soul.

Compare: GPS System

For Father’s Day my kids gave me a GPS system. It’s the perfect gift for someone like me. I like gadgets like this. I tell it where I’m headed and it tells me THE BEST WAY TO GET THERE ... HOW MANY MILES TO MY DESTINATION AND ALL ALONG THE WAY IT IS TELLING ME HOW FAR I’VE TRAVELED AND HOW MANY MILES REMAINING. It rules my trip.

Lightfoot

“Wherever there is a conflict of motives or impulses or reasons, the peace of Christ must step in and decide which is to prevail.”

God is present in our heart to be the umpire to tell us when we’re safe ... and to tell us when we’re doing something out of bounds ... out of His favor.
We can know we’re choosing the right thing by an inner peace.

The principle

When we follow the **WILL** of God we will experience the **PEACE** of God

It is the peace of Christ that guides believers in making right decisions and affirms that a right decision has been made. Sometimes I make a decision that I think was acceptable to God ... only to discover later that I don’t have a peace. The lack of peace afterwards tells me I better reverse the decision.

The Holy Spirit dwells within us to be the umpire in our moment by moment decision-making. And when we submit to His will ... the result will be the peace of God

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A word of caution

The final judge is not simply *“I have peace about my decision.”*

Compare Jonah

When he got on the boat in opposition to the will of God ... He thought he was at peace. But it was his sin that created the storm and took away the peace of an entire crew.

The peace of God is twofold:

It is peace based on submission to God’s known will

It is followed by a peace that is experienced internally

Watch this

If we’re not obeying the Word of God ... it doesn’t matter one iota that you have peace about it.

That kind of peace is merely an empty emotion rather than a God-directed obedience
But when you follow and obey the will of God ... there is a corresponding peace of God
that follows.

“PEACE ... TO WHICH INDEED YOU WERE CALLED IN ONE BODY”

We have peace with Christ while we walk in the will of God

*To have peace with God is our **PRIVILEGE**
To have peace with our brethren is our **DUTY***

Transition: When there is peace in the heart ... there will be gratitude on the lips! The last three words of verse 15 make this clear ...

➤ **Be THANKFUL**

Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; **and be thankful.**

The believer's life is to be DOMINATED by thankfulness!

The thinking of unbelievers ... the entitlement mentality ...

- ✓ God owes me happiness.
- ✓ I deserve to be treated right

One of the biggest problems we are born with ... and grow up believing is the belief that WE DESERVE GOOD THINGS IN OUR LIFE.

Don't miss this!

Not until we understand that we **do not deserve good** ... will we recognize that the good things that come our way are *gifts* from God.

And gifts should always be received with expressions of GRATITUDE AND THANKFULNESS!

Believers are required to maintain an attitude of thankfulness about everything ... because we do not deserve anything good.

MY FAVORITE REMINDER OF THANKFULNESS IS THE RESULT OF UNDERSTANDING Psalm 103:10

Psalm 103:8, 10

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
103:10 **He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.**

Understanding this truth should constantly result in expressions of gratitude and thankfulness!

Illustration: iPhone and Digital Camera experience

When things go bad ... how are we to respond?

2 weeks ago Linda and I were with my siblings at Morro Bay.

On the second day there we went to Giovanni's Fishfood outdoor café. Standing in line I discovered that my iPhone was missing. So I backtracked from where I parked and as I crossed the street I saw the phone in its case laying in the middle of the street. At first I was relieved ... but then I thought ... check it out first. So I grabbed it, took the phone out of the case – it looked fine but when I tried to use it – I discovered – it had been driven over by a car ... maybe two.

Walking back to tell Linda I realized ... this is a good time to practice what I preach. A peace came over me.

Just a few minutes later ... and I mean only minutes ... my sister in law decided to take some pictures of us in line. So Linda handed her the brand new digital camera I just bought her 10 days earlier. When the camera was being handed back to Linda ... she fumbled it. And in her attempt to recover the fumble ... Linda accidentally slammed it to the ground. The camera was not mostly dead ... it was completely dead. And once again God gave us an opportunity to practice our Christianity. Though it wasn't natural nor really easy ... we said to each other ... I think we need to thank the Lord anyway.

AND PEACE CAME OVER US. A ruined iPhone and a ruined camera didn't ruin our day.

This experience was primarily a test – a test to see if I'd be thankful when two things went really wrong back to back. If I were to grade myself in my response ... I will be honest – the first words out of my mouth were not “THANK YOU, LORD.” I have a feeling that the first words were – “OH, NO!” But within moments I realized – I need to be thankful ... for if God were to give me what I deserve – I wouldn't have a broken iPhone and broken camera – I'd be dead and standing before Him in judgment.

Transition: One of *THE* most important activities for the believer comes to light next.

➤ Be **FILLED** with God's **WORD**

Colossians 3:16a

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you ...

“*THE WORD OF CHRIST*” is the Bible.

“*RICHLY DWELL*” is having the Bible completely at **HOME** in our heart

If the word of Christ is going to be at home in our heart ...

- There must be a good measure of Bible knowledge
- Portions will be memorized ...
- The Bible must be read often

The word of Christ, the Bible, will not richly dwell within you by osmosis.

It richly dwells within you by

- ✓ Reading it ...
- ✓ Studying it ...
- ✓ Memorizing it ...
- ✓ Listening to it being read ...

There is no short-cut to spirituality ... we need to be ...

- ✓ Hearing it preached!
- ✓ AND SUBMITTING TO IT IN OBEDIENCE ... and applying it in every area of our lives

Many Christians never get beyond infancy.

- ✓ They know that Jesus died for their sins ...
- ✓ That they are forgiven
- ✓ That there life is different now ...

BUT THE WORD OF CHRIST ... RATHER THAN LIVING IN THEM **RICHLY**
... IS LIVING IN THEM **POORLY**

A great concern today

Pastors and churches are not teaching the Word of God. They are not instructing systematically through the Bible. There is a lack of simple Bible teaching.

My friends, when believers have a limited knowledge of the Word of God they will be severely lacking in faith. *Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Hebrews 10:17).*

My friends, The Word of God will transform our lives **IF** we fill our minds with it.

A direct parallel: Ephesians 5:18ff

Being **filled with the Spirit** produces the **same results** as the word of Christ richly dwelling within. Therefore, being filled with the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Word of Christ is virtually the same thing.

It is therefore safe to say ... when you are filled with the Holy Spirit it is because you are filled with the word of Christ. When you are filled with the word of Christ you will be filled by the Holy Spirit.

Transition: *How do you know that the word of Christ dwells in you richly?* Look at the rest of verse 16

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, **with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**

The foremost evidence that the word of Christ richly dwells within you is seen in a refreshing activity ...

➤ **Be Expressive of this Rich Indwelling via SONG**

“TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER” = two results when the word of Christ dwells in the believer

The positive side - **“TEACHING”** = the giving out of positive truth

The negative side – **“ADMONISHING”** = the giving out of warnings and corrections

“Having the Word of Christ richly dwell in us produces not only information, but also emotion” (MacArthur)

Music is the emotion of the heart expressing truth, praise and thankfulness. And it is this pastor’s perspective that it is music and singing that is designed to make the church happy in the Lord. Songs coming from the heart will have a high degree of joy and happiness. We will have a godly happiness ... a happiness focused on the Lord ... not our circumstances

“PSALMS” – Songs that **QUOTE** Scripture

One of my childhood favorite songs ... Psalm 89:1
“I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever ... I will sing”

“HYMNS” – Songs that **EXPLAIN** or express doctrine

Example
*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity”*

*And Can It Be that I should gain an interest in the Savior’s blood.
 Died He for me who caused His pain
 For me? who him to death pursued
 Amazing love, how can it be? That Thou my God shouldst die for me*

“SPIRITUAL SONGS” – Songs of testimony ... and express much about God’s grace

*“Since Jesus came into my heart ... floods of joy o’er my soul like the sea billow roll ...
 since Jesus came into my heart”*

Songs that express our appreciation and joy for God’s grace

“Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me”

Spiritual songs may be a general category of Christian songs ... that are not quoting Scripture nor expressing doctrine.

A.T. Robertson – Principles for choosing music

1st – The songs must express real **emotion of the heart**, adoration and worship

2nd – The songs must **express it in a way worthy** of our Savior and God

When we sing we minister to each other, encouraging one another.

When you come to a service ... you might come depressed and discouraged. But after hearing the singing and seeing the words on the screen you leave lifted up and encouraged. This is partly what music is designed to do.

Conflict over music in the church

Some years back Dr. Dobson said that of all the subjects he covered in his radio program ... **THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT WAS MUSIC.** He went on to say, *“you can make people made about music more quickly than anything else.”*

Concerning preferences in music ...

Be guarded and be wise: If you don't like a style ... focus on the message.

We don't vote on doctrine here ... and we don't vote on music preference.

At River park we seek to examine what music is used through the microscope of God's word.

Transition: The Lord wants us to know that there are to be two other key components of our singing. Our singing needs to be done ...

“WITH THANKFULNESS”

A key element of our praise and worship should be gratitude!

- ✓ Gratitude for Christ and His work on the cross
- ✓ Gratitude for God's grace
- ✓ Gratitude for new life in Christ
- ✓ Gratitude for the forgiveness of sins

GRATITUDE SHOULD DOMINATE OUR SINGING

And the gratitude is not to be superficial ... it is to come from deep within ... from our hearts.

“IN YOUR HEARTS”

The heart needs to agree with the mouth.

Successful Christian living involves attention to three books:

God's Book, the Bible;

One's pocketbook;

And the hymn book

(Author unknown)

Transition: There is another thing that is to govern how we live.

➤ **Be MINDFUL of Christ in Everything**

Colossians 3:17

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Good to remember

The believer's life is not governed by a long list of do's and don'ts ...

The believer's life is to be governed by a desire to **HONOR** Christ in everything

“*WHATEVER YOU DO*” relates to the Lordship of Jesus. When we live to please Him ... when we live seeking to honor Him in every activity of our life ... we are doing “*ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS*”

Ruth Graham:

For many years she had a sign over her kitchen sink that said:

"DIVINE SERVICES HELD HERE THREE TIMES A DAY."

"ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS" means to honor Him in speech, action, attitude and thought!

My friends, we bear the name of Christ as *Christians*.

We do everything with a view to His glory

How you drive your car ... to His glory
How you do your homework ... to His glory

"All in the name of the Lord Jesus" is the guide for living in the **GRAY** areas"

Well said

One of the best tests of any action is:

Can we do it, calling upon the name of Jesus?

Can we do it, asking for His help?

Can we speak it and in the same breath name the name of Jesus?

Can we speak it, remembering that He will hear?

If a man brings every word and deed to the test of the presence of Jesus Christ, he will not go wrong"

Wrap Up:

If the Word of Christ dwells in you richly ... it will be lived out in your life and it will have an effect on your home.

NEXT WEEK WE WILL EXAMINE THE EFFECT IN THE HOME ... SO DON'T MISS!