

Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Hearts

Happy Wednesday!

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 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. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:15-17 NASB1995

Verses like these that come with instructions are instructions for those who have surrendered their lives to Christ Jesus and His authority. If that isn't you, then you will not be able to live like Christ, you will only be able to live like yourself... you may do better for a little while, but in the end, you're still resting in your own strength and not the supernatural power of Christ that moves you toward succeeding in what He says to do.

But what is He instructing us to do here? In my opinion, Colossians 3 is one of the best chapters on how to live your life like a follower of Christ. But why does that matter?

If you look back to the Old Testament, you learn that God rescued the Israelites (a.k.a., Jews) from being slaves to the Egyptians AND THEN God leads them to the “Promised Land,” which is the land He chose for them to have. It was better there, better for them there, and it was where God knew they would thrive. So that historical timeline echoes our own: through the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, God rescues us from our slavery to sin AND THEN leads us to live better so we can thrive.

Now, back to the original question: what are we being instructed to do in these verses?

- “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” This means that something ELSE naturally longs to rule in our hearts. What is the opposite of peace? Worry and fear.
- “to which indeed you were called in one body;” This reveals that we are called to be united to other believers, not divisive or creating hurdles for others to jump through to get to Christ.
- “and be thankful.” Grumbling and criticism do not come from Christ (I need to read that again!)
- “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you.” Do you *richly* or lavishly cover yourself in the Word of Christ?
- with all wisdom teaching and admonishing (like encouraging) one another with:
 - psalms,
 - hymns, and
 - spiritual songs
- “singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Again, this is said because something else naturally comes against this: singing something else to someone, encouraging them away from God and apart from God, saying “my will be done” instead of “Thy will be done, Lord.”

- “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Not for your own benefit or gain, not to be seen, but to reveal Him.
- “giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Rely on Christ for this transformation. Your role is to discern when you’re failing so that you can ask God for help. Eventually, you’ll stop waiting until you fail to reach out to the Only One who can help you and then you will preventively pray and ask God for help. When you know better, you’ll do better, and now we both know better. Instead of the latest fashion trends or Christmas gift trends of 2023, let’s meditate on these never-failing trends of trusting God to help us love and treat others with His kindness.

Prayer:

Father thank you for your goodness and your kindness. Help me to live better through You, relying on You and Your Name to transform my life and my thoughts. Help me succeed at thriving in the places You lead me.

Worship:

“You Keep On Getting Better” by TRIBL feat. Majesty Rose

<https://youtu.be/PMEGUx7MfCM?si=dz8VgK3fIVxARApR> [youtu.be]

“Good Plans/Doxology” by Red Rocks Worship

<https://youtu.be/wp3IBM6s2D0?si=vvF7F1ER4XgVmpcv> [youtu.be]

Brittany Laing