

THE PEACE OF CHRIST
LETTING CHRIST'S PEACE RULE – PART 3 OF 4
COLOSSIANS 3:15

THE PRIORITIES OF THE NEW MAN

1. We have looked at the qualities that should mark the life of a **maturing Christian** (Col. 3:12).
2. The two examples of Jesus' application of these qualities were cited by **bearing** with and **forgiving** one another (Col. 3:13).
3. The unifying element of the faith is **love** that **glues** everything together (Col. 3:14).

KEY THOUGHT: The priorities of the maturing Christian who is wearing these garments are to be the **peace** of Christ, the **Word** of Christ, and the **name** of Christ (Col. 3:15-17).

I. CELEBRATING CHRIST'S PEACE IN YOUR LIFE (COL. 3:15a).

- A. A **bond** of **peace** exists between God and each believer (Rom. 5:1).
 1. The war between God and the believer is **over** and the treaty was paid for by the **blood** of **Christ** (Rom. 5:10).
 2. The believer is no longer "estranged" but has been **reconciled** to God and become part of His family (Col. 1:21-22).

Reconciled = "to make **peace** with something or someone"
 3. Christ is the **source** of our peace (Eph. 2:14).
- B. Paul stated the power of God's peace was to guard our **hearts** and **minds** (Phil. 4:7).
- C. Jesus Himself told His disciples that He was giving them the **gift** of **His peace** (John 14:27).

KEY THOUGHT: When Christ reconciles a sinner to Himself, a "**new** man" is created who is **unlike** who he was before (Eph. 2:14-16).

II. LET CHRIST'S PEACE RULE OVER YOUR HEART (COL. 3:15a).

“to rule” = “to umpire or decide the outcome of an athletic contest”

- A. The peace of Christ guides believers in making decisions (Eph. 4:1-6).
 - 1. Consider which decision is consistent with the character of Christ.
 - 2. Consider which decision perpetuates oneness with Christ.
- B. It is our union with Christ that compels us to purity (1 Cor. 6:17-18).
- C. Each decision made must leave the believer with a deep and abiding peace in his heart (Phil. 4:7; Col. 3:15).

KEY THOUGHT: Christ is “the Head of the Body of Christ” and is to rule every Christian and guide His bride, the church, graciously and intentionally (Eph. 1:22-23).

KEY THOUGHT: An obedient church body is most often comprised of Christians who let Christ's peace rule over their lives (Col. 3:15).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

October 23, 2011

SUNDAY: ***The priorities of the maturing Christian should match those of the Lord God (Col. 3:15-17)!*** When you come to faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you become a new person, transformed into a completely different person spiritually (Eph. 2:14-15). When you become a new person in Christ, you will encounter the priorities of the new man. We have already looked at the qualities that should mark the life of a maturing Christian (Col. 3:12). Additionally, we looked at length at the two examples of Jesus' application of these qualities of bearing with and forgiving one another (Col. 3:13). Then, the unifying element of the faith is the love of God that glues everything together (Col. 3:14). The maturing Christian chooses to walk wearing the garments (qualities) of Christ and adopt the priorities of the new man: the peace of Christ, the Word of Christ, and the name of Christ (Col. 3:15-17). This week we are going to look at the peace of Christ. Ask the Lord to quiet your heart this week to listen to Him as you study about the peace of Christ. ***May this be a good week to wait on the Lord and learn from His Spirit!***

MONDAY: ***Celebrate the peace of Christ in your life (Col 3:15a)!*** The peace of Christ should rule and lead the heart of a Christian (Col. 3:15). Each believer has been justified with the righteousness of Jesus one time to secure eternal salvation (Rom. 5:1). A bond of peace exists between God and each believer. The war between God and the believer is over at conversion and the treaty was paid for by the blood of Christ (Rom. 5:10). While we were yet enemies of God, Christ reconciled us to the Father. The Christian is no longer "estranged" from the Father, but has been reconciled to God and has become part of God's family (Col. 1:21-22). Unbelievers often find that they fought fiercely with God because they hated His holy standard. Now, the believer is seen as "holy" because of the substitutionary death of Christ in the cross. Are you celebrating the peace of Christ in your life toward other believers? Is the celebration of your salvation first and foremost in your life, or do you emphasize other things as more important? Ask the Lord to help you enjoy your salvation and celebrate each believer that you encounter in the family of God. ***May this be a time of rejuvenation in your spiritual life!***

TUESDAY: ***The peace of Christ is a gift that should guard the believer's heart and mind (Phil. 4:7; John 14:27)!*** The peace of God is a tranquility that is unwavering because of the eternal security of one's salvation. This peace provides a deliverance from fear, anxiety, doubt, and distress. Paul stated that the entire inner man was to be in union with Christ (Phil. 4:7). Jesus Himself told His disciples that He was giving them the gift of His peace (John 14:27). It is a peace that cannot be known by anyone but Christians. It rules their hearts and minds to bring harmony with the Lord and His mission in their lives. Has the peace of God overtaken your life? Are you ready to let go of your striving and simply become the child of God the Father has invited you to become? Choose today to rest in the Lord and in His peace. Off-load your anxieties and fears to Him and accept His refreshing peace in your life. ***May your experiences with the peace of God cause others who do not know Him as Savior to inquire why you are so peaceful and stress-free!***

WEDNESDAY: *You are a “new man” in Christ when you are saved (Eph. 2:14-16)!*

Jesus alone is the believer’s source of peace (Eph. 2:14). Jesus destroyed all the barriers between the sinner and God with His death upon the cross (2:15). When a sinner calls upon the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of his sins and to make Jesus Lord and Savior of his life, he is reconciled to the Father. In fact, the new believer becomes a new person! Jesus paid the price for sin and its unholy rebellion (Gal. 3:10-13). The wrath that was meant for the sinner was taken on by Jesus. The “new creation” becomes something completely different spiritually. Ask the Lord to renew your walk and commitment to Him today. Choose to submit to the Holy Spirit’s leadership throughout every decision you make. ***Make this a week where the peace of Christ begins to rule in your life!***

THURSDAY: *Christ’s peace calms your heart to make better decisions (Eph. 4:1-6)!*

Paul begins to describe the transformed life of the believer in Ephesians 4:1-3. The qualities of Christ that the believer is to wear are outlined. The believer is to be worthy of the calling to be a child of God. Paul then details the areas of unity that are so critical for the Christian (vv. 4-6). There is a focus on the Trinity and their unified role in the life of each Christian. The church is comprised of believers united in faith and love. The doctrine of One God is taught throughout all of scripture (v. 6). This unity is communicated to the heart of the believer with the peace of Christ. Are you spending time each day with the Lord just listening and being with Him? Allow the peace of Christ to permeate every area of your life. ***May the Holy Spirit show you how to release your control on your prayer life and communion with the Father!***

FRIDAY: *Our union with Christ is paramount in our growth in purity and the making of God-honoring decisions (1 Cor. 6:17-18)!*

It is our union with Christ as believers that compels us to purity (1 Cor. 6:17-18). You are one spirit with the Lord, and you are to exhibit the qualities we have been discussing in Colossians 3:12. Especially in this case, it is demanding that you flee sexual sin as a believer. This specific sin defiles you on the inside and sullies your partnership with the Holy Spirit. Regardless, every decision that you make impacts the kingdom of God. Be sure to allow the peace of Christ to guard your heart and mind (Phil 4:7). Each decision that is made in your life should leave you with a deep and abiding peace in your heart (Col. 3:15). Seek to know how to “be with the Lord” as you pray every day. Make the decision to strive to know Him intimately. Make your prayer time each day a special visit with your God and King. Ask the Lord to reveal Himself through your time together in prayer. ***May you find that your time with the Lord each day is growing sweeter and more precious!***

SATURDAY: *Christ is the Head of His bride, the church (Eph. 1:22-23)!*

Christ is the “Head of the body of Christ.” The Lord is to rule every Christian and guide His bride, the church, graciously and intentionally (Eph. 1:21-22). When the Christians within the church are obedient to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in their lives, the church is ruled effectively by the peace of Christ (Col. 3:15). What is stopping you from allowing the peace of Christ to invade every area of your life? What is the next step for you to begin sitting quietly to hear from the Lord? Ask the Lord to draw you closer to Him through prayer and his peace. ***May the peace of Christ rule in your heart and life!***