

# A LIFE IN HARMONY WITH HEAVEN

*Colossians 3:15-17*

*Q: “What does Christianity, which exalts God and diminishes individual rights, offer a culture like ours that aims to exalt the self?”*

*Q: “What does Christianity, which exalts God and diminishes individual rights, offer a culture like ours that aims to exalt the self?”*

*A: “Religion, in many circles, has become the business of trying to make people happy. Anything that enlarges my comfort zone is regarded as good, godly, proper, and to be integrated into my religion.*

North American culture, both secular and churchly, zeroes in on the “right to happiness.” But a true study of God challenges that notion, for it calls on us to deny claims of self and to exalt God instead. God promises that if we pursue holiness, happiness will come. And it does come, in the form of a joy that the world knows nothing about. Christian self-denial produces more joy and happiness than secular self-indulgence ever does. People who don’t know God don’t believe that, but it’s true.”

*J.I. Packer*

# I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

# I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...”*

# I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...”*

**John 14:27**

## I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” (Luke 2:14)*

## I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

*“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”*

(Romans 5:1)



## I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

*“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”*

(Romans 5:1)

*“But now in Christ Jesus you who were formerly far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace...”* (Ephesians 2:13-14a)

## I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

Christ's peace has made us heavenly-distinct *from* the world, and our purpose is to live that distinction *in* the world.

## I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...”*

The gift of Jesus' peace should act as the umpire of the desires of your heart as you relate to God and man.

# I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

1) Seek the high road of remaining at peace with the Lord.

# I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

1) Seek the high road of remaining at peace with the Lord.

**How?** By choosing to think and behave in ways which keep your conscience clear with God.

**Not hiding sin**

**Not harboring sin**

**Not dishonoring the Lord** through willful disobedience/neglect.

# I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

1) Seek the high road of remaining at peace with the Lord.

**Ask:** Will this help me **protect** and **promote** peace in my walk with God?

**As you nurture peace** with God, allow that peace to umpire **your choices**.

# I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose (Colossians 3:15)

2) Seek the high road of remaining at peace with others.

**Romans 12:17-18**

**Ask:** Will this decision, choice, direction, or action help me protect and promote peace with others?

I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose

**II. Christ's Word and Our Worship (Colossians 3:16)**



I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose

II. **Christ's Word and Our Worship** (Colossians 3:16)

We practice the **centrality, supremacy, and sufficiency** of the Word of Christ preached, taught, read, prayed, and sung in our times of worship.

I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose

II. **Christ's Word and Our Worship** (Colossians 3:16)

We practice the **centrality, supremacy, and sufficiency** of the Word of Christ preached, taught, read, prayed, and sung in our times of worship.

God's Word tunes our hearts to **heaven**. God's Word is like a **tuning fork** putting our hearts in **perfect pitch** with heaven.

I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose

II. **Christ's Word and Our Worship** (Colossians 3:16)

We practice the **centrality, supremacy, and sufficiency** of the Word of Christ preached, taught, read, prayed, and sung in our times of worship.

God's Word tunes our hearts to **heaven**. God's Word is like a **tuning fork** putting our hearts in **perfect pitch** with heaven.

**Ask:** Is my heart tuned by the Word of Christ, so that my worship is in harmony with heaven?

- I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose
- II. Christ's Word and Our Worship
- III. Christ's Glory and Our Good (Colossians 3:17)**

- I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose
- II. Christ's Word and Our Worship
- III. Christ's Glory and Our Good (Colossians 3:17)**

It is very difficult, if not impossible, for us to be at odds with God or others when our hearts are **filled to overflowing** with **thankfulness** to God.

- I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose
- II. Christ's Word and Our Worship
- III. Christ's Glory and Our Good (Colossians 3:17)**

It is very difficult, if not impossible, for us to be at odds with God or others when our hearts are **filled to overflowing** with **thankfulness** to God.

**Gratitude promotes godliness!** We value what we are thankful for (and vice-versa).

- I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose
- II. Christ's Word and Our Worship
- III. Christ's Glory and Our Good (Colossians 3:17)**

*"...if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another."*

- I. Christ's Peace and Our Purpose
- II. Christ's Word and Our Worship
- III. Christ's Glory and Our Good (Colossians 3:17)**

*"...if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." (Galatians 5:15-16)*



GRACE CHURCH  
WILLIAMSBURG