

Lives in Harmony with Heaven

Colossians 3:15-17

“A vessel is only really full when it begins to overflow: so the **proof** of a Christ-filled life, the **value** of a Christ-filled life, and ultimately the **purpose** of a Christ filled life, lie in the outflow into other lives of the riches we ourselves enjoy... The outflow proves the inflow, and demonstrates the fullness.” *(Reginald White)*

The apostle Paul's concern is for a **Christ-centered community of faith**, where our spiritual buckets overflow in the fulness of living for the greater glory of Jesus Christ.

To that end, Paul expounds on three commands/exhortations which unify us in **Christ-centered family living** as the body of Christ.

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

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”
(John 14:27)

“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.” (Eccles. 12:13)

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

This is the **spiritual** emphasis Paul is making by saying, “...*to which indeed you were **called** in one body...*”

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...” (Eph. 2:13-14a)

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:4-7)

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

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...”

You give way to, you submit to the peace of Jesus acting as the **umpire** of your inner man, that is, your heart.

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

“Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.” (Romans 12:17-18)

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

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*“...richly dwell within you **with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...**”*

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

Why is it so important for us to safeguard and practice the centrality, supremacy, and sufficiency of the word of Christ preached, taught, read, prayed, and sung in our times of worship?

Why do we put so much emphasis on God's word when we gather?

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

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” (1 Timothy 1:5)

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

“At the core of our individual and corporate experience as God’s people must be the person and work of Jesus. The importance of this for today is easily seen with a quick glance at the predominant themes in our pulpits and on our platforms. Christ is largely absent! That’s not an overstatement. Obsessive preoccupation with self has usurped the place of Jesus in the life and ministry of countless churches.

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

“If you listen closely to what is being proclaimed on Sunday mornings, you will discern two dominant themes: conquering and coping. How can I conquer my world? How can I enter into my destiny? How can I triumph over my enemies and claim my inheritance? How can I better cope with life's daily struggles? How can I relate more effectively with my peers and co-workers? If Christ is mentioned, and he usually is, he exists to aid us in our search for significance. He is important only so far as he awakens us to our importance. We talk about **him** so that we can feel good about **ourselves**. Need I go on?

“...Thus, Paul's point is that we must grant the word of Christ the highest priority and place in the corporate experience of the church. It must be preached, proclaimed, explained, and applied.” *(Sam Storms)*

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

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

III. Christ's Glory and Our Good (Colossians 3:17)

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

Live your life for the sake of Jesus!

III. Christ's Glory and Our Good (Colossians 3:17)

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

Colossians 3:15: *“...and be thankful”*

The word of God **informs** and **transforms** your heart to love God and to be loved by God -- this is the highest commandment of heavenly living on earth.

III. Christ's Glory and Our Good (Colossians 3:17)

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

Colossians 3:15: *“...and be thankful”*

Colossians 3:16: *“...with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*

Colossians 3:17: *“...giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”*

Gratitude promotes godliness!

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.” (Gal. 5:15)

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.**” (Gal 5:15-16)*

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