

“THE PERSONALITY OF THE CHRISTIAN”

[6-29-08 Message 5a]

Text: Colossians 3: ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Purpose: We have presented to us the prescription for godly living and worship.

Introduction: We have gathered here this morning to worship God the Father and God the Son with the help of God the Holy Spirit. Our supreme desire is to worship Them in *spirit and truth* and not mixed with any hypocrisy. What an honor for the redeemed of the Lord! Could we do any less?

We shall be considering □□□□

Outline:

1. The Domination of peace in us [3:15]

- A. A Living Peace [3:15a]
 - B. A Living Organism [3:15b]
 - C. A Liberated Action of the Mind [3:15c]
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Now let us consider ►►►

1. The Domination of Peace in us -- [3: {permit} ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.]¹

A. A Living Peace – ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

- 1. “let” is not in the original at this point of the sentence structure.
- 2. “peace of Christ”
 - a. “peace – ειρηνη” --” is a noun, nominative, singular, feminine
 - 1) a state of national tranquility; exemption from the rage and havoc of war.
 - 2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord.
 - 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous).

¹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Col 3:15

- 4) of the Messiah's peace. 4A the way that leads to peace (salvation).
 - 5) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.
 - 6) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death.
- b. "of the Christ - the genitive case indicates that this peace belongs to Christ and He gives it to us!
3. "rule in your hearts"
- a. "rule – βαβευετω" is a verb, finite, third person, singular, present, imperative, active. This is an imperative which expresses a command.
 - 1) The word "rule" means to be an umpire; to decide, determine; to direct, control, rule.²
 - 2) It means "to preside at the games and distribute the prizes." Paul used a variation of this word in his Letter to the Colossians: "Let no one declare you unworthy of a prize" (literal translation, Col. 2:18). In the Greek games, there were judges (we would call them *umpires*) who rejected the contestants who were not qualified, and who disqualified those who broke the rules.³
 - b. "in your hearts - εν ται καρδια υμων"
 - 1) the heart; that organ in the animal body which is the centre of the circulation of the blood, and hence was regarded as the seat of physical life; denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life.
 - 2) the vigor and sense of physical life.
 - 3) the centre and seat of spiritual life.
 - 4) the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors.
 - 5) of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence. ^{2B3} of the will and character.
 - 6) of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions.

²Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G430

³Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary.* Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:15

- 7) of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate.⁴

The closer believers are to Christ (and His likeness), the closer they are to each other. In interpersonal relationships “peace” (transcendent, God-given tranquility) should rule (brabeuetō, “arbitrate, decide every debate”; a word used only here in the NT⁵

Illustration: Judges for the Olympics

Life Principles to Live by:

1. We have an “Umpire” that enables us to make all of the right decisions! In reality, we have *two*! The Lord Jesus and the Indwelling Holy Spirit!
2. As we all will face many very difficult and tough decisions today and the rest of our days, what comfort we have in trusting and depending upon our God-give *Umpires*!
3. It is also wonderful to have the counsel of godly men and women that the Lord has also given to us in helping us make the right decisions and they are our examples of living in peace and being thankful in all of life’s situations!

Transitional Sentence: The flow from this phrase is quite natural as we focus upon
□□□

B. A Living Organism – since as members of one body

1. “members - εκληθητε” -- Verb, finite, second person, plural, aorist, indicative, passive – the called out ones. God is the One that called us!
2. “of one body - εν ενι σωματι” – in the sphere of “one – adj.” body. The adjective “one” describes the uniqueness of this “body.”
 - a. 1 Cor. 12: ²⁰ **As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**⁶
 - b. Rom. 12: ⁴ **Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same**

⁴Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G430

NT New Testament

⁵Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures.* Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:682

⁶*The Holy Bible : New International Version.* electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 1 Co 12:27

function,⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.⁷

3. *Positionally* we have been “called by God” and placed into the sphere of the Body of Christ in eternity past. *Practically*, we must receive Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour as the Holy Spirit opens our blind eyes, enabling us to see our need of personal salvation in Christ.
 - a. 1 Cor. 12: ¹³ For we were all baptized by^a one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.⁸
 - b. “baptized –εβαπτισθημεν” is a verb, finite, first person, plural, aorist, indicative, passive.
 - 1) The aorist verb tense is used by the writer to present the action of a verb as a “snapshot” event. The verb’s action is portrayed simply and in summary fashion without respect to any process. In the indicative mood, the aorist usually denotes past time, while an aorist participle usually refers to antecedent time with respect to the main verb.⁹
 - 2) Indicative mood in which the action of the verb or the state of being it describes is presented by the writer as real. It is the mood of assertion, where the writer portrays something as actual (as opposed to possible or contingent on intention).¹⁰
 - 3) Passive –is the grammatical voice that signifies that the subject is being acted upon; i.e., the subject is the receiver of the verbal action. A verb in the passive voice with God as the stated or implied agent is often referred to as the “divine passive.”¹¹
 - c. The *Baptizer* is the Holy Spirit whereby we are *placed* into the Body of Christ.

Illustration: The Triunity of the Godhead; Husband and wife union; the Body of Christ both universally and locally.

Life Principles to Live by:

1. Oh the thrill of being “in the Body of Christ!”

⁷ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ro 12:3-5

^a Or *with*; or *in*

⁸ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 1 Co 12:13

⁹ Heiser, Michael S.: *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology*. Logos Bible Software, 2005; 2005, aorist

¹⁰ Heiser, Michael S.: *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology*. Logos Bible Software, 2005; 2005, indicative

¹¹ Heiser, Michael S.: *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology*. Logos Bible Software, 2005; 2005, passive

2. It's a beautiful site to behold! All of you, all of the believers globally, working together as *one Living Organism* of whom *Christ is the Head*.
3. We are "One in Christ" and there are no distinctions of any kind!

Transitional Sentence: The flow from these two phrase -- *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body* is quite exciting and natural as we focus upon □□□

C. A Liberated Attitude of Mind - *you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

1. "*you were called to peace*"
 - a. "*you were called - εκληθητε*" is a verb, finite, second person, plural, aorist, indicative, passive. At a point in time, you were called by someone else – namely God and Christ.
 - b. "*to peace* – note 1.A.1.a for this is the same peace.

2. "*And be thankful*"
 - a. "*And be – γινεσθε*" is a verb, finite, second person, plural, present, imperative, deponent. This is an imperative, a direct command "to be."
 - b. "*thankful – ευχαριστοι*" -- is an adjective, nominative, plural, masculine. This is an *attitude of thanks* to God.

Life Principles to Live by:

1. Let us praise the Lord and the Holy Spirit for helping us to live in the sphere of peace with one another!
2. Let us praise the Lord and the Holy Spirit for helping us to be *thankful* to our Father and Lord and in every situation of life – both the good and the difficult.

Transitional Sentence: The flow from these three phrases -- *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body* *you were called to peace. And be thankful* is quite exciting and natural as we focus upon □□□

How Can this Message "Encourage me" in My Spiritual Growth? What are some of "your" impressions?

1. When a believer does not have the peace of God and Christ operating within their minds, they will go off in all directions and will not be in the will of God for their lives. Many times these individuals will turn to the world system to compensate for the lack of inner peace. However, no believer can *escape from himself or herself!* There needs to be the confession of personal sin! 1 John 1:9

2. When a believer has *peace within the mind/heart*, they will be thankful and will graciously give thanks to God and Jesus.