

EXCELLING IN OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Lesson 9: The Key To Loving One Another:

Letting The Word of God Take Up Residence In Our Lives

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. And 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: 16-17 (compare with Eph. 5: 18-20)

1. God's Word is to be at HOME in us.

Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you with all wisdom.... Colossians 3: 16a

How? James 1: 19-25

• RECEIVE God's Word (vs. 19-21).

- OPEN our ears.

Everyone must be quick to hear...

- SHUT our mouths.

...slow to speak...

- CALM our spirits.

...and slow to anger, for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God

- WEED our hearts.

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness...

- SURRENDER our wills.

...in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

• RESPOND to God's Word (James 1: 22-25).

- BUILD our lives on the ROCK of God's Word (v. 22).

- CHANGE our behavior in the MIRROR of God's Word (v. 23-24).

- FILL our hearts with the TRUTHS of God's Word (v. 25).

• REFLECT God's Word (James 1: 26-27).

- CONTROLLED TONGUE (v. 26)

- CARING HEART (v. 27a)

- CLEAN MIND (v. 27b)

2. God's Word is to be SHARED by us.

...teaching and admonishing one another...

Colossians 3: 16b

- **TEACHING** is imparting to one another God's Word.
- **ADMONISHING** is encouraging one another to walk in God's Word.
- **GOAL: SPIRITUAL GROWTH** (Colossians 1: 9-12; 28)

3. God's Word is to be SUNG through us.

...with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3: 16c

...Thy statues are my songs...

Psalms 119: 54a

- **PSALMS** - OT Psalms as well as Christians songs written for accompaniment with music which focus on glorifying and magnifying the nature and works of God.
- **HYMNS** - songs of praise used primarily to teach believers about the redemptive work of Christ. For example, many church scholars believe Colossians 1: 15-18 and Philippians 2: 6-11 were early church hymns.
- **SPIRITUAL SONGS** - songs of personal testimony praising God for His work of grace in the life of a believer.

Note: Although we cannot be dogmatic on the definition of the musical terms in Colossians 3: 16, it is obvious the verse speaks of blending diverse musical forms in order to worship God, teach God's truth, and admonish a life honoring God.

HOW TO EVALUATE MUSIC

ARTIST	CREATES	MUSIC
is	is	is
FALLEN	GIFT	GOOD/EVIL
therefore	therefore	therefore
discern	discern	discern
WORLD VIEW	CREATIVE	MESSAGE
	ABILITY	
Is it	Does it possess	Is it
TRUE/FALSE?	TECHNICAL	PROFITABLE/
	EXCELLENCE	DESTRUCTIVE?
	& STYLE SUITED	
	TO MESSAGE?	

4. God's Word is to be LIVED by us.

And 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: 17