

# The Peace and Word of Christ

## Colossians 3:15-16

08/09/15  
by Bob DeWaay

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by Bob DeWaay  
Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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### The Peace of Christ Must Rule

#### **Colossians 3:15a** (NASB)

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

- This peace comes from Christ and is to hold sway in our lives
- He is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) and brings true peace
- "Let rule" is imperative in the Greek
- "Rule" means to "be the decisive factor" (Moo) and does not suggest inner guidance
- Peace is *shalom* in the OT and denotes well-being that comes through God's saving acts

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### We Were Called to Peace

#### **Colossians 3:15b** (NASB)

ō to which indeed **you were called** in one bodyō

- In Col. 3:12 the called (chosen) are holy and beloved
- This is the **effectual call** and involves being called to holiness
- "In one body" emphasizes the corporate nature of the call to peace

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### Be Thankful

#### **Colossians 3:15c** (NASB)

...and **be thankful**.

- “Be thankful” is an imperative in the Greek
- “Thankful” is *eucharistos* which is used at the Last Supper “gave thanks”
- We are commanded to strive to be thankful people
- Thankful people sing praises to God for their mutual salvation

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### The Word of Christ Must Be Central

#### **Colossians 3:16a** (NASB)

Let the **word of Christ** richly dwell within you...

- “Let dwell” is imperative in the Greek
- “**Word of Christ**” is likely an objective genitive meaning “the message about Christ”
- “Dwell in you” is plural and shows the corporate nature of the proclamation of Christ
- The **preaching of Christ** is powerful and central
- “Richly” denotes the fullness of the message

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### A Congregation That Teaches and Admonishes With Wisdom

#### **Colossians 3:16b** (NASB)

...with all wisdom **teaching and admonishing** one another with psalms and hymns and **spiritual songs**...

- When the word of Christ is prominent the result is a congregation which can teach with joyful praise
- Wisdom is found in Christ (Col. 2:3)
- Spiritual songs are likely those composed on the occasion of a saving act of God (Exodus 15:1, 2; Rev. 5:9)

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### Thankfulness Expressed in Songs From the Heart

**Colossians 3:16c** (NASB)

ō singing with **thankfulness** in your hearts to Godō

- “Thankfulness” is literally *charis* “grace”
- “In your hearts” bookends these verses (15, 16); peace and thankfulness are to be in our hearts
- We are to thankfully sing to God with our whole being

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### Three Imperatives in Verses 15, 16

- Imperative One: Let the Peace of Christ Preside
- Imperative Two: Let the Word of Christ Dwell
- Imperative Three: Be Thankful

All of this is “in our hearts” and corporate; how we live as God’s chosen ones, holy and loved (Col. 3:12)

We are to be **Christ centered people** full of peace and thankfulness, ready to teach

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### Implications and Applications

- True peace is through being reconciled to God
- Avoid the danger of ingratitude
- Be Christ-centered in Word and Worship

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### In Christ Is True Peace

**Ephesians 2:17, 18** (NASB)

And He came and **preached peace** to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

- Here the gospel is linked to “peace” which is “shalom” in the OT
- There is an allusion to Isaiah 52:7
- “preached” is **euaggelizō** meaning “proclaimed the gospel”
- This is the “gospel of peace” (Ephesians 6:15)

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### Be Reconciled to God

**2Corinthians 5:20, 21** (NASB)

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God**. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

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### We Must Not Allow Ingratitude in Our Hearts

**Romans 1:21, 25** (NASB)

For even though they knew God, they **did not honor Him as God or give thanks**, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. . . . For they exchanged the truth of God for a **lie**, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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### Christ-Centered in Word and Worship

#### **Revelation 15:3, 4** (NASB)

And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and **the song of the Lamb**, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, **For Your righteous acts have been revealed.**"

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