

Guidelines For Christian Living (Col. 3:15-24)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The letter to the Colossians is full of practical advice on how to walk out the Christian life as believers. As I have said before, it was a completely foreign way of life than what most were used to living. The same is true today.
- B. In essence, we are being told: *“This is how you should live from now on. You may have been used to living in a certain way before but now – This is the way to live!”* We are to put on Christ daily and live out our lives as “Christians” (Acts 11:26).

II. LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR LIFE

- A. This verse describes one of the many “lifestyle” commands in the N/T (there are actually 1050 commands in the N/T). The Apostle says, *“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...”*
¹⁵ “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful” (Col. 3:15).
- B. **“Rule”(v.15):** Is word that means, *to be umpire, to decide, to control*. It is not just “peace”, but the peace of God. We are to let the peace of God direct everything we do in life. Someone has said, “be guided by the peace of God in your decisions.” If you don’t have peace, don’t do it!
“My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you.” Pro 3:1-2
“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you” Isa. 26:3
“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you... let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (Jn 14:27)
- C. **“And be thankful” (v.15):** “eucharistos” is the word for thankful. It means, *To be mindful of favors, to be grateful*. Gratefulness means *to be deeply appreciative of kindness or benefits received*. The Holy Spirit makes us grateful.

III. LET THE WORD DWELL IN YOU RICHLY

- A. The word of God (Logos – meaning *something said, the divine expression of Christ in word form, utterance*) is a working force in us designed to strengthen us and build us up personally and as a corporate body.
¹⁶“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col. 3:16).

B. **“Dwell in you richly”** richly means abundantly. One Bible scholar explains it this way: *“The gospel is the word of Christ. Many have the word, but it dwells in them poorly; it has no power over them”*¹

C. We need a refresher course on the power of the Word of God. There is power in the Word!

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life” (Jn. 6:63)

“For the word of God is living and powerful [energes – active, operative, effectual] and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Heb. 4:12)

D. **12 things about God’s word in Psalms:** The word is pure (Ps 12:6), it is proven (Ps. 18:30), it is right (Ps. 33:4), it creates (Ps. 33:6), it heals (Ps. 107:20), it brings life and revives (Ps. 119:25), it is eternal (Ps. 119:89), it is sweet (Ps. 119:103), it is a lamp to the feet (Ps. 119:105), it brings light (Ps. 119:130), it is true (Ps. 119:160), it controls the weather (Ps. 147:18).

IV. SERVING CHRIST IN EVERYTHING WE DO

A. It is easy to lose perspective in daily life and forget that we serve Christ regardless of what we do or where we are. The apostle Paul is reminding us that no matter what we do in life (whether secular or sacred), We are to do it all *in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (v.17)*

17”And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Col. 3:17) ... “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,” (Col. 3:23-24)

V. GOD’S PRESCRIPTION FOR A HAPPY HOME LIFE AND WORKPLACE

A. The word of God teaches us how to function in the culture we live in. There is a creative order to everything in life that actually works well. Here are some scriptural guidelines:

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husband’s, love your wives and do not be bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things. For this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ” (Col. 3:18-24).

B. Wives **“submit” (v.18)** means *to arrange in order*. Husbands **“Love your wives” (v.19)**. Love is the word *agapao*. Children **“obey your parents” (v.20)**. To obey means to listen attentively. To conform to a command. To submit to. Bondservants obey in all things... **“not with eyeservice as men pleasers” (v.22)**. We don’t just work hard and do right when employers are checking up on us but all the time, because we know we are actually working for the Lord.

¹ Matthew Henry Commentary, Col. 3:12-18