**Two More Life-Controlling Principles**

***Colossians 3:15 & 17***

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

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Introduction: This morning we considered one of 3 life-controlling principles found here in Colossians 3:15-17. The Word of Christ is to reside in us. I connected this verse with the third new thing found in II Corinthians 5:17, the new song or a new consecration [previously we looked at the new birth (our new creation), & the new life (our new *“conversation”*)]. Have you experienced that new birth? Are you exhibiting that new life? And are you expressing that new song? We come tonight to 2 more life-controlling principle: let the peace of God rule, & let the glory (thanks) to God resound. Remember the connection of this passage giving the results of being Word-indwelt with Ephesians 5:18-21 giving us the results of being Spirit-filled. I ask again, “If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you, or would you be released due to lack of evidence?” Another way to ask this question, “Do you, as a Christian, have any such rules or principles that you seek to live by?” Let’s look in our text to find some of these life-controlling principles.

 I. Let the **peace** of God rule (:15)

 A. Such peace **defined** - (there is calmness)

 1. Academically:

 a. “An agreement, pact, treaty, or bond” – a cessation from war, peace treaty.

 b. “An attitude of rest or security.”

 2. Biblically:

 a. Peace with God - Rom. 5:1, justified by faith; no longer at war with God (Rom. 5:10, 8:7).

 b. Peace of God - Phil. 4:7, cannot be enjoyed until you have experienced peace with God; this

 peace also has as its source God the Son (Jn. 14:27) & God the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).

 [“It is that inner calmness that rests on the assurance that God is too good to be unkind &

 too wise to make mistakes” (Gromacki).]

 c. Peace with man – Rom. 12:18 (& cf. Rom. 14:19; Mark 9:50; II Cor. 13:11; & Heb. 12:14).\*

 B. Such peace **demonstrated** - (there is oneness, singleness)

 1. “Umpiring” - *“rule”* - “to act as an umpire” (as one who decides the outcome of the game).

 a. “Divine peace should constantly regulate all activities of the believer. Peace should always

 overrule dissension” (Gromacki).

 b. Decision-making > “Wherever there is conflict of motives or impulses or reasons, the peace

 of Christ must step in & decide which is to prevail” (Lightfoot).

 Note: Where should this take place? *“In your hearts”* – the center of one’s personality; the source of

 one’s will, emotions, thoughts, & affections. But be aware of our human “peace of heart” when not in

 agreement with the “peace of God.” Consider the case of Jonah. See Wiersbe’s notes.

 2. “Unifying” - *“called in one body”*

 a. Only those individuals who have peace in their own hearts can live in peace & harmony

 with their fellow believers.

 b. “All believers were divinely called in one body to a position of peace before God & to a

 practice of peace within the true church. Peace & unity go together” (Gromacki).

 C. Such peace **declared** - (there is gratefulness)

 1. *“And be ye thankful”* - such thankfulness ought to come naturally & continually by the believer

 who reflects upon all that God has done (Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6; I Thess. 5:18; Heb. 13:15).

 2. “Thankful people acknowledge the working of the sovereign will of God in their lives & cir-

 cumstances “ (Gromacki). The peace of God in our heart leads to the praise of God by our lips.

 II. Let the **glory** to God resound (:17)

 A. By living **consistently** - *“do all in the name of the Lord Jesus”*

 1. Representing His name > we are to be submitting to His authority & seeking His approval –

 cf. II Tim. 2:19, *“…And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”*

 2. Regarding His name > we are to act consistently with Who He is & to what He wants - cf.

 I Cor. 10:31, *“...do all to the glory of God”* (put Him first – Mat. 6:33; love Him most – Mat. 22:37; & give Him our best – Col 3:23; Rom. 12:11).

 3. Reproaching His name?? > we can bring reproach upon His name by immorality (II Sam. 12:1-

 14), insubordination (I Tim. 6:1), or inconsistency (Tit. 2:5). To avoid this, see Rom. 13:14.

 Summary: “To *do all in the name of the Lord Jesus* means to live & act as those who bear His name,

 & so to seek to live worthy of Him. It means also to act as those for whom He is Lord, & this involves

 obedience to His will” (Carson).

 B. By praising **continuously** - *“giving thanks”*

 1. For the privilege of knowing Him > Phil. 3:10.

 2. For the privilege of living for Him > II Cor. 5:14-15.

 3. For the privilege of serving Him > Heb. 12:28.

 Summary: “Every activity is to be done in obedience to the Lord Jesus & accompanied by the giving of

 thanks to God through Him” (O’Brien).

Conclusion: Commenting on verse 17, Matthew Henry said, “Those who do all things in Christ’s name will never want (lack) matter of thanksgiving to God, even the Father.” If you are a believer here tonight, is the peace of God ruling in your heart? Is the Word of Christ residing in you richly? Is the glory of God resounding from you constantly? These simple principles are offered by Paul, not as suggestions, but as commands. We disobey these commands to our own detriment. Disobedience does not mean the loss of our salvation, but it very well may lead to the lack of our sanctification (growth in Christ). It also may reflect our love (or lack thereof) for the Savior. To the church at Ephesus, Christ lamented, *“Thou hast left thy first love”* (Rev. 2:4). On the other hand, indifference to these principles may simply indicate the absence of salvation. Have you put off the old man & put on the new? Are you a new creation in Christ? Is Christ your life? Do you know for sure you have been born again? If not, why not make sure here tonight? If so, will you heed Paul’s challenge & make these life-controlling principles your rules for living? May God help us as believers to let the peace of God rule daily, the Word of Christ reside richly, & the glory to God resound continually! Such behavior should be the outward manifestation of our inward transformation!

 Closing illustration: “The Jesus Man” (Guy King).

\*Note on 3:15, *“…& be ye thankful”* – “To be grateful to men will mean being constantly alert to discern in their words & deeds any possible ground for gratitude, rather than being on the watch for an encroachment on our rights which must be resisted” (Carson). Is such peace with our fellow-believers in evidence here in our church?