

**Let the Peace of God
Rule in Our Hearts
Colossians 3:15**

BULLETIN BLOOPERS

Don't let worry kill you let the Church help

Thurs. Nite – Prayer Potluck & Medication to follow –(Instead of meditation)

For those who have Children & don't know it – we have a nursery down stairs

*The rosebud on the Pulpit this morning is to announce the Birth of David Allen Beltzer – **the sin of Reverend & Mrs. Beltzer***

Finally: At the evening service – the sermon topic will be What is Hell – Come early & listen to our Choir Practice

Listen Mistakes are a part of Life – because we are not perfect People –

A) Family Bloopers – idiotic things that are said and done

B) Sometimes those things can cause strife and Divisions –

C) Church Family – the same

1) Making Messes all over the Place

Which is why what Paul writes here in Col 3:15 is so important – *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

A) 1st CONTEXT – Talking Relationships v.8-14

1) Put off Evil attitudes & Speech / deception

B) Put on Garments of Grace – V.12-14
put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

C) He is clearly speaking about our relationships with each other in the body of Christ –

1) He continues – And

D) This is different than say – Phil 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

C) The context there in Philippians is concerning our circumstances – instead of worrying – we seek God and as we do – **He meets us with a Peace**

1) A peace that is not because of understanding – but a peace that surpasses understanding – **a peace that Guards our hearts and minds**

D) A peace **that sets our hearts at ease – a peace that quiets our minds**

1) A **peace that enables us to rest in the faithfulness of God / the power of God / the Grace & Love of God**

E) Phil 4:6-7 is referencing the peace of God as it relates to our circumstances

1) But the focus here in Col 3:15 is different – He is talking about our relationships with in the body of Christ

Look at it again V.15 **And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body;**

A) You were called in one body – Let peace rule

B) Similar thing in Heb 12:14-16 **14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord;15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;**

C) Pursue = make it a priority / make it your passion

So the first thing to note is that this peace of God is in reference to our relationships –

A) Let it **RULE = umpire or to arbitrate – referee**

B) I know in this family called the Church there are going to be **conflicts / disagreements**

1) Hurt feelings / misunderstandings and Personality conflicts –

C) Let the peace of God – **His model of peace** – let **GOD'S PEACE referee** in those situations

Consider God's model of peace

A) We were enemies of God – we had wronged God – we had sinned against God

B) God was totally **in the right** – But what did God do? – He sought to make peace

1) He initiated the peace Process between us and Him

C) **Out of Love for us** – He sent His son to be the Sacrifice for our sins –

1) He shed His perfect sinless blood – so that you and I who were – lost enemies – Saved – friends

D) That is God's model of peace – **that is what He wants us to Practice**

How important is this to God - *They will Know that you are my Disciples by your love*

A) Peace is a by product of love in a family

B) Specific instruction to keep the peace

Matt 5:23-24

.23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, .24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift

Matt 18:15-17

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone/ YOU GO. If he hears you, you have gained your brother./ That is the key that is the motive – RECONCILIATION

16 But if he will not hear, Then forget about it take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

C) What is he saying – he is saying no matter how hard and uncomfortable it is go to great lengths to make it right

1 Peter 3:10-12 *"He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."*

D) Hinder your Prayer life – Hinder your own walk with the Lord

Here is the sad thing – there are a lot of Christians who won't do this

A) They are walking around with bitterness and unforgiveness in their hearts toward others

B) Unresolved conflicts - They are doing anything but seeking peace

C) Here is the problem: *They ask how can I go to my brother when I can't resolve how I feel in my heart*

That is the question I want to answer tonight before we take communion

A) **Outlook determines outcome / Attitude determines action**

B) Consider 3 Attitudes that we need to have especially as it relates to these things – Peace rule

1st Outlook – Consider the Cross - Exodus 15 MARAH - throw in the tree

A) Christ paid the price for that sin –

1) Christ has forgiven them – repentance

B) How can I not forgive - if He has Forgiven me

C) First is throw in the tree –

2nd 2 Cor 5:16 – **Know no man after the Flesh –**

A) V.17 New Creation –

B) See them in Jesus – His Child –

1) Flaws / imperfections / so apparent to me – but also to Him & He loves them – so should I

C) *We judge others by their actions and we judge ourselves by our intentions – We judge ourselves by what we meant and others by what they do.*

D) Listen we need to **Reverse that** – We need to judge ourselves by our actions & others by their intentions

But I don't know what were their intentions – Right – You don't but – *love believes all things / bears all things / hopes all things*

A) IN other words love Chooses to treat someone like a Christian – Christ like

B) **Give them the benefit of the doubt – a Christian wouldn't do that – they didn't mean that**

1) heathen would – but not a follower of Jesus

C) So outlook #2 I am going to Choose to *Not know them after the flesh* – see them in Christ

See Love is not Blind – Love sees more – but love Chooses to see less –

A) Love sees more and because it sees more it chooses to see less

B) Paul said in 1Cor 13 – If I have all Knowledge but have not love – what does it profit

C) So don't judge others by their actions and yourself by your intentions –

1) Judge yourself by your actions & others by their intentions

D) In other words – be harder on yourself –

1) Choose to see them in Christ

Can't Change your heart – but you can Change your mind – God can Change your heart – but He won't Change your mind – { not violate your will

E) But if you Change your mind – God will Change your heart –

How do I Change my mind : Phil 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy -- meditate on or think on these things.⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

A) So often conflicts are the result of some misunderstanding – I thought you thought

B) Whatever is

C) So outlook #1 Choice – Throw in the tree – Consider the Cross –

D) Outlook #2 – See them in Jesus
Your Choice – Judge them by their intentions
Your Choice – Let the peace of God rule

OR

You can let Strife rule / let bitterness rule
Let unforgiveness rule

E) You can let those things be your umpire and they will say: you have a right to feel this way

1) **JUSTIFY – Your bad attitude**

Outlook #3 Learn mercy: Interesting – Jesus said learn 3 things

A) Matt 11:29 – *Learn of me – you will find rest Look at me watch me*

B) Luke 21 – learn the parable of the fig tree – Learn about prophecy

C) Matt 9:13 *But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'* - LEARN MERCY

Mercy – not getting what we do deserve

A) The master of mercy / the monarch of mercy our Lord JC – declared from the Cross – *Father forgive...*

B) They don't know what they are doing – forgive them – **that is mercy**

C) God declared to Israel – *I will meet with you at the Mercy Seat* –

Tab – Holy of Holies sat the ark – inside was the 10 commandments – the Law –

A) Lid covering – Mercy Seat – Blood sprinkled

B) God said that is where I will meet with You

C) Now when the Philistines had sent the Ark of the Covenant – back to Israel – Bethshemesh

1) We are told that the men of Bethshemesh were so excited – the ark is back

D) It says that the men of Bethshemesh lifted off the mercy seat to look into the ark

1) Presumably to see if the Law { the 10 commandments } was still inside –

E) But when they lifted off the Mercy seat – 50,070 men of Israel died INSTANTLY .

1) WHY? – Because they moved the mercy seat

They took away mercy to look at the law – to make sure it was intact –

A) Sometimes I can do that I set aside mercy to Check out the law – I want to get to the bottom of this

B) Problem is there is no bottom – When you want to get to the bottom of things & move mercy

1) Things die – relationships die / fellowships die / the presence of the Lord departs –

C) when there is not love which is manifested so clearly in mercy

I WILL MEET W/ YOU AT THE MERCY SEAT God declared- not in the box where the law was kept

A) God who says I will meet with you at the mercy seat says to us – **LEARN MERCY – WHY?**

B) Because He has been so merciful to us

C) Show mercy – Undeserved Favor

Choice #1 – Throw in the Cross – Apply the Blood

Choice #2 – Know no man after the Flesh – Brother

Choice #3 Show Mercy – Justice was paid

Tonight - #1 – Cross – communion

#2 – See that person in Jesus

#3 Show mercy – Find way to bless

You might need to see them tonight before communion -