

Colossians 3:15-17

A Well-Balanced Believer

Do you ever feel like you are juggling plates?

Your life consist of always trying to find your balance between, responsibilities, relationships and requirements.

A) People ask me occasionally – Pastor Rob –

How can I pray for you?

(The book I wrote – insight pray for pastors)

B) My response is usually “**Pray for Balance.**”

1) I need balance in my life – because I usually feel – trying to balance everything going on.

C) Most of you only hear me teach once a week here on the weekend or at the Shadowridge.

1) But my normal week usually consist of **teaching 3-4 times each week { All need hrs of prep**

- Church services
- Monday night’s Equip Class
- Tuesday our staff meeting
- Wed here at the School – our Bible class

D) If I am doing a retreat or conference somewhere – averages once a month add another – **3-4 messages more to prepare for in a given week.**

E) Teaching is still a big responsibility

Then You add to that – Responsibilities of overseeing a Church this size

A) I will average – 10-20 meetings and counseling appointments every week.

Aa) Desperately trying to make Quality time to spend with my wife – { **Practice some of the things we talk about at Thrive**

B) Get some time with my kids –

1) See my parents – who are getting older every year. – 1st plate that crashes

C) Exercise a little – 2nd plate that usually crashes

D) Carve out some time to have a few quality friendships

1) 3rd Plate that usually crashes –

E) So I always – Say Pray for Balance.

I am sure that what I just described is a cakewalk compared to what your week is like!

A) Life is Crazy! – Some weeks **like me** – you probably do a good job of juggling the plates and keeping EVERYTHING balanced.

B) But more often than not – one or more of those plates comes crashing to the floor.

C) Or You have a week – Like I did this week – where they all end up on the floor in one big pile.

1) Not sure where to begin in picking up the Pieces

The Passage we are looking at this morning – I think can help us figure that out.

A) Paul gives us 4 Characteristics that lead to a well-balanced Believer. Four things to consider and apply – **result in a fruitful, fulfilled and balanced life**

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 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. 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.

B) **The book of Colossians outlined**

- Chapters 1-2 Right Thinking
- Chapters 3-4 Right Living

Right thinking:

- **1st Who Jesus is** – Huge Colossal statements – Highlighting his Deity/ His Sovereignty, His Majesty, His Glory – His Headship over the Church

B) Right thinking #1 Being Who Jesus is-

RT #2 Who we are in Jesus- such as

A) **Made alive in Him**, Qualified by, Delivered, Redeemed, **Forgiven, chosen**, and greatly loved by God – people with a glorious Destiny!

B) Chapter 1-2- Right thinking – Chapters 3-4 is Right Living

C)Big Idea: Be who you are in Christ – NOT who you were in the flesh!

D)Saw last week Paul encapsulated that idea by saying –

- 1)Take off the clothes that represent who you used to be –
- 2)You used to live – to gratify and serve your flesh-
- 3)You used to be ruled by fleshly reactions

But Put on the new Man

A)BE CLOTHED IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

B) You used to live – to gratify and serve your flesh-

Now live your life to glorify and serve God!

C)In V.15-17 Paul puts a bow on the package of this section by giving us 4 exhortations – how we can do just that!

#1 Let the Peace of God rule in your hearts!
The word rule = umpire – umpires govern the game

A)Something is out of bounds – Umpire tells us – Foul Ball – Instant replay He stepped out of bounds

B)Fair or foul – tells us - Hit or a strike out – they tell us
Job of the umpire

C)Paul says let God’s peace call the balls and strikes

1)Determine what is Fair or foul in your life – What things are Hits – Homeruns – what things are strike outs.

D)Rule is also translated – arbitrator

1)Let the peace of God be the arbitrator in your circumstances, your trials and your relationships

The Peace of God really involves three things – 1st Peace with God

Because of what Jesus did – I can have peace with God – was an enemy now a Child

2nd Because I am at Peace with God – His Child – I can have peace in my circumstances – Jesus said The peace I give is not as the world gives

A)The World has –peace because of their circumstances – But I can have peace in the midst of my circumstances:

Philippians 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.

B)Because of Who He is – Jesus is faithful and true – He loves me

1)He is not going to fail me

C)As I seek him in prayer – His peace fills my heart!

3rd Because I am at peace with God – I can have peace in my circumstances and I can live in peace with others.

A)This the hardest one – because in this thing we call the body of Christ there are a lot of messes. - FULL OF SINNERS

B)One big Dysfunctional family. – Best around –

C) **BULLETIN BLOOPERS** -*Don't let worry kill you let the Church help*

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

Finally: At the evening service – the sermon topic will be: “What is Hell? Come early and listen to our Choir Practice!”

C)People do the wrong things – with the right intentions

1)Christians can get in the flesh and say the wrong things with the wrong intentions – hurt people

D)Paul says – Let the peace of God – Umpire in those relationships

Hebrews 12:14-16 **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;

Put simply – Treat others the way that God has treated you.

A)God showed us great grace- we are reluctant to give to others

A woman and her husband interrupted their vacation to go to a dentist. "I want a tooth pulled, and I don't want Novocain because I'm in a big hurry," the woman said.

"Just extract the tooth as quickly as possible, and we'll be on our way."

The dentist was quite impressed. "You're certainly a courageous woman," he said. "Which tooth is it?"

Turned to Hubby – Show him DEAR!

Think about our situation with God – WHAT He did to make Peace

A)We were clearly in the Wrong – Man sinned – Man rebelled

B)God was clearly in the right – Yet Jesus humbled himself – coming to earth to pay the price for our sin.

1)Make a way for our sins to be Forgiven and Restoration to happen

C)Trust in the work of Christ

When Paul says Let the Peace of God Rule – As it relates to our relationships He is saying - Follow that example.

A)Instead of responding with Anger, wrath, malice and evil speaking – put on kindness mercy longsuffering and forgiveness.

B)We let the peace of God be the umpire in our hearts by seeking to be peacemakers – Humbling ourselves – Bless others!

1)Forgiving others because we have been so incredibly forgiven by God.

I read a story this week that I think illustrates this well. About a century ago there was a woman known as Warrior Brown – because of her fiery temper.

A)She was often belligerent and became enraged whenever she got drunk.

B)Then one day she was converted. Her entire life was wonderfully changed by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

C)At an open-air meeting weeks later, she told everyone what Jesus had done for her.

1)Suddenly a scoffer threw a potato at her, causing a stinging bruise. Had she not been converted, she would have lashed out at the man furiously.

God's grace, however, had made such a profound change in her conduct that she quietly picked up the potato and put it into her pocket without saying a word.

A)No more was heard of the incident until the time of the "harvest festival" months later.

B)Then the dear lady who had been known as "Warrior Brown" brought as her offering a little sack of potatoes.

1)She explained that after the open-air meeting she had cut up and planted the "insulting potato,"

2)and what she was now presenting to the Lord "as the increase"

C)Warrior Brown had allowed "the peace of Christ" to be umpire of her life."

So the 1st Characteristic to be a balanced believer – Let the Peace of God rule in your hearts

#2 Let the word of Christ Dwell in you richly!

A)Richly is in an extravagant way – in fullness – it takes over every room in the house.

B)Parable of the sower – 4 reactions we can have to the word of God

1)Seed hard path – never penetrates –it goes in one ear and out the other no fruit

C)Seed among the stones – Springs up right away – Emotional reaction

1)Amen preach it brother – no depth – no root -

D)Soon as the heat of the sun – it withers – soon as the first trial or resistance occurs – I am done – forget this

1)Retreats – never become realities because Resistances = Run

Seed among the thorns – more depth – again produces something of visible fruit – weeds and thorns choke it out.

A)Jesus defined the weeds and the thorns as the distraction of the Deceitfulness of riches and the cares or responsibilities of life

B)Living to get by – living to survive life

But the fourth soil is the one where the seed goes down deep and takes root and bears an abundance of Fruit

A)Good soil – is the heart where the Word of Christ is dwelling richly

B)Jesus in the Parable of the two builders I think gives us a clue to what extravagant looks like

C)Two Builders – Sand = the Foolish – hears the word and doesn't put it into practice – sits there

1)The Wise – Hears the word and puts it into practice.

D)He STAYS balanced in the midst of the Storm!

The word dwelling in you richly by

A)**Hearing it** – Quantity how often ? – Devo's / Studies/ Radio & podcast

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

B)Faith grows and multiplies through the hearing of the word

The word dwelling in you richly by

A)Hiding it: Ps 119:11 *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*

B)Memorizing Scripture – Hidden in your heart – impacts your heart

1)Natural responses become more driven by the word than your flesh

The word dwelling in you richly by

HANDLING IT - 2 Tim 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who*

does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

A) Study the word and then use it – give it away

B)Best way to learn is by sharing what you have heard with someone else !!!

1)Family devotions / Work / Bible study / Teaching in Children's ministry.

Keys to becoming a well balanced believer:

#1 Let the Peace of God rule in your hearts

#2 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly

#3 Let the Body of Christ encourage you greatly.

teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The Christian life was never meant to be alone:

A)When a child is trying to learn to walk on a balance beam – two things they tell them – LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD

B)#2 Keep your arms out - Balance – A spotter on the right and on the left

1)They are admonishing you – You got this – you can do this.

C)If you fall they help you get up!

The Body of Christ works the same way – We look straight ahead keeping our eyes focused on Jesus – Do that – His Word dwell.... Richly

A)Then we need spotters and encourages on each side – admonishing us

B)Worship together – Reminding ourselves – of the greatness of God

C)**Love when we come together** – I am overwhelmed – We start to sing these songs that remind me of the bigness of God!

D)Get together for Coffee with a Friend – **Spontaneously** share something God is doing in their lives – teaching them.

1)I am encouraged and built up – they spoke into my life not even knowing it

E)We need each other -

Keys to becoming a well balanced believer:

#1 Let the Peace of God rule in your hearts

#2 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
#3 Let the Body of Christ encourage you greatly.

#4 Let everything be done for God's glory!

V.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.

A)What a concept – Every word – every deed – Done for Jesus – His glory

B)1 Corinthians 10:31 Do all things for the Glory of God

C)What this does is to turn every area in your life into a spiritual pursuit with spiritual opportunities.

1)Mom with the plaque in her Kitchen – Divine activity happens here three times a day!

D)Nothing is hum-drum, nothing is ordinary.

Your job is no longer just a job, it's an assignment from God.

A)It's a platform to show forth His goodness and His heart and His creativity.

B) Some of you can impact more people in a month through your business contacts than many pastors do in a year.

1) To do that, you have to see your job, or your business as something that you do as unto the Lord and then you need to perform accordingly.

If you apply this to raising your kids, raising your kids is not something that you do because you're a mom or a dad,

A)It's something you do because God has entrusted these children to you and you are going to raise them in a way that brings glory to God.

B)I was talking with a mom once who told me that she applied this verse to her daily Chores – made all the difference in the world

D) She wasn't cleaning her house for her husband - / kids / herself / but for the Lord

1) What used to be a mundane – necessity – became an expression of worship

Listen if you are here today- Not a believer

Jesus made Peace – Forgiven – Know God

Become part of this family