

Sermon Discussion

31 May 2020

Read Colossians 3:12-16

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Dig Deeper

Four imperatives in verses 15-17 identify the precepts believers must follow. The first of these is "let rule." When Christians need to make choices, the peace that Christ produces in our hearts should be a determining factor. We should choose what will result in peace between us and God, and between us and one another, if such a course of action lies within God's moral will.

This directive forms, with the Word of God and the witness of the indwelling Spirit, one of the most important principles of guidance in the Christian life. When these three indicators line up we can move ahead confidently.

The "word of Christ," used only here in the New Testament, is Christ's teachings, not only during His earthly ministry but also in all of Scripture. His Word should permeate our whole being so that we make all decisions and plans in its light.

1. What does Paul say in Colossians 3:16? What would qualify as the word of Christ? (See also Colossians 1:5-7, 23; Luke 4:22, 32; John 14:24 and Galatians 1:11-12.)
2. In v. 16, to "dwell" means to inhabit so as to make oneself at home. So, what does it mean to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly?
3. How would you define and distinguish between teaching and admonishing?
4. What is needed in order to teach or admonish one another in wisdom? In what ways do you prepare yourself to be able to teach the word of Christ to others? How can you improve in your preparation to teach?

5. To admonish someone involves risk in a relationship. Do you shy away from admonishing others because of fear of rejection or loss of relationship? How could a firm grasp of Colossians 3:12-14 encourage you to admonish others from the word of Christ?
6. What is the connection between singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs and having gratitude (literally “grace”) in your hearts?

Application

- Are you giving thanks frequently to God for the life that He has given you? If not, why not? Maybe it’s time to make a list of all the good things God has given to you or done for you. Thank Jesus for each one of those things.
- Feel free to let the gratitude in your hearts overflow in worship to Christ with singing or through any other creative expression (for ex: find a piece of paper that you can use for art, prose, poetry, etc.).
- Spend time as a group praying for one another in your areas of need.

Pray

Lord, guide me by Your Spirit to realize where in my life I need to be taught or admonished. May I be open to a loving brother or sister in Christ who would be your means of correction for me. If you are calling me to teach or correct a brother or sister in Christ, make it clear what I need to say. Grant me the love and peace of Christ that may do so with gentleness and compassion.