

“How to Live the Overflowing Life”
Colossians 3:15-17
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I. Introduction

- A. The surest sign that you are carrying a full bucket is wet feet
 - 1. For the Christian, the surest sign you are living in Christ’s fullness is the overflow of Christ from your life
 - 2. Paul has commanded us to put off the grave clothes of the old life and to put on the grace clothes of the new life
 - 3. In our text today, he gives us three commands which are to control the expression or overflow of the new life.
 - a) Let the peace of Christ rule (v. 15)
 - b) Let the word of Christ dwell (v. 16)
 - c) Let the name of Christ be glorified (v. 17)

II. Let the Peace of Christ Rule (Colossians 3:15)

- A. It is a divine peace
 - 1. “The peace of God” (v. 15)
 - 2. Before our conversion, we were at war with God
 - a) No peace for the wicked
 - 3. At our conversion, we have peace with God
 - a) (Romans 5:1)
 - 4. Here, it is the peace of God
 - a) It is the deep tranquility of soul which Christ imparts
 - 1) (Philippians 4:7)
 - 2) (John 14:27)
- B. It is a ruling peace
 - 1. “Rule in your hearts” (v. 15)
 - 2. “Rule” is an athletic term that means “to act as umpire”
 - a) God’s peace should arbitrate all our activities and decisions
 - b) Not our anger or our passions
 - 3. God’s will, God’s peace, and God’s Word
 - a) Be careful of a false peace
 - 1) Illustration- Jonah
- C. It is a peace of unity
 - 1. “To the which also ye are called in one body” (v. 15)
 - 2. Peace with God
 - a) With others in the church
 - b) In your marriage and family
 - c) On your job
- D. It is a peace that brings thanksgiving
 - 1. “And be ye thankful” (v. 15)
 - 2. Learn to be thankful

3. God's grace in salvation brings me peace with God and the peace of God, which in turn brings a thankful heart
 - a) (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
4. Is your life overflowing with God's peace and thankfulness?
 - a) If not, you need Christ's fullness

III. Let the Word of Christ Dwell (Colossians 3:16)

- A. What does Paul mean by the "Word of Christ?"
 1. The word which Christ spoke
 - a) Recorded in the gospels
 2. It is most likely a synonym for Scripture
 - a) It is the Word of God
 - b) The Bible
 - c) The Word of the Lord
- B. God's Word is to dwell in us
 1. "Dwell" is to "be at home"
 2. It is more than just reading the Word. It is letting the Word have access to every part of your life
 3. Letting your heart become Christ's home
 4. Letting God's Word be at home in your heart
- C. God's Word should dwell in us how?
 1. "Richly in all wisdom" (v. 16)
 2. It means it must be highly prized and appreciated
 - a) Read
 - b) Believed
 - c) Obeyed
 3. When the Word of Christ dwells richly in us, what happens?
 - a) Teaching
 - 1) "The positive instruction of truth" (v. 16)
 - b) Admonishing
 - 1) Warning and correcting (v. 16)
 - 2) (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - c) "One another" (v. 16)
 4. How do we teach and admonish one another?
 - a) In Psalms
 - 1) God's playlist
 - b) In hymns
 - 1) Songs of praise to the glory of God
 - 2) (1 Timothy 1:15)
 - c) Spiritual songs
 - 1) Songs was used widely of many forms of poetry, not only sacred but secular as well. Therefore, the word "spiritual" is added to denote the religious character of these songs.
 - 2) Augustine insisted that there are three essentials of a hymn
 - a. It must be praise
 - b. It must be addressed to God
 - c. It must be sung

5. “Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (v. 16)
 - a) Jesus puts a song in your heart
 - b) Christians sing
 - 1) Joyful noise
 - 2) The history of revivals in the church
 - a. Luther
 - b. Wesley
 - c. Moody
 - c) Two things about our singing
 - 1) “With grace in your hearts” (v. 16)
 - a. With graciousness
 - b. Because of His grace
 - c. With gratitude
 - d. Thankful for God’s grace
 - 2) To the Lord
 - a. It is an audience of one
 - b. It is not what we think
 - i. Not a concert
 - c. It is worship
 - i. (John 4)
 - d) The parallel passage
 - 1) (Ephesians 5:18-21)
 - 2) Word dwelling and Spirit filling bring the same results
 - a. Joyful songs
 - b. Thanksgiving
 - c. Submitting to others
6. Is the bucket of your life overflowing?
 - a) Do you have wet feet?
 - b) If not, let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
 - c) Be filled with the Spirit
 - 1) (Ephesians 5:18)

IV. Let the Name of Christ be Glorified (Colossians 3:17)

- A. When we let the peace of Christ rule, and the Word of Christ dwell, then our lives bring glory to God
 1. What does Paul mean by the name of the Lord Jesus?
 - a) The name is His person and character
 2. There are three features involved in this command
 - a) The scope of the command
 - 1) “Whatsoever you do in word or deed...” (v. 17)
 - 2) Everything we say and do
 - 3) It’s all of life
 - b) All of life should be lived under His authority and for His glory
 - 1) “Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (v. 17)
 - 2) Nothing should be permitted into our lives that cannot be associated with Jesus Christ
 - 3) “Christ who is our life” (v. 4)

- c) All we do should be done with thanksgiving to God our Father
 - 1) “Giving thanks to God and the Father by Him” (v. 17)
 - 2) Become thankful
 - 3) God is your Father
 - 4) He has promised to take care of you
 - 5) (Matthew 6)

V. Conclusion

- A. Is He your Father?
 - 1. Realize
 - a) Sin
 - 2. Repent
 - a) Turn
 - 3. Received Jesus
 - a) Cross
 - b) By faith
- B. If you are His child
 - 1. Let His peace rule
 - 2. Let His Word dwell
 - 3. Let His name be glorified
- C. Christ who is our life
 - 1. When Christ is your life, that is life more abundant