

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

How Do You Get the Peace of Christ?

Colossians 3:12-17

1 In preparation for my oldest son's wedding my wife and my son's future mother-in-law coordinated arrangements over the telephone long distance. At the time we lived in Northern California and she lived in New York City. The wedding was to be held in California, so my wife made the arrangements without her assistance. Both of our families were on tight budgets so expenses had to be at a minimum. Feedback from New York was always, "Whatever you decide will be just fine with us!"

However, when my son's fiancée's mom arrived a few days before the wedding, there was misunderstanding and some tension. Born and raised in a different country and culture, she had assumed arrangements would be different. This was her only daughter so "proper" wedding preparation was important. So, the two moms raced around town getting what would be the proper arrangements. Lots of worrying and fretting were going on to make this special event important and memorable. 2

Then, God's word spoke to us loud and clear, **And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

¹ The second principle about God's peace also became clear to us. ³ This special peace we were seeking is something that the Lord gives you. Lord Jesus said, **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.** I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. ² ⁴

As we were contemplating these scriptures I remembered a truth in the passage I want to share with you today; **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** since as members of one body you were called to peace. ³ This peace is supposed to govern your whole life! ⁵

So, let's look at Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12 through 17. How you get the peace of Christ? ⁶

¹ Philippians 4:7.

² John 14:27.

³ Colossians 3:15.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.^{4 7}

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.^{5 8}

The first way to get the peace of Christ is . . .

⁴ vs 12-14.

⁵ vs 15-17.

I. By Becoming God's Chosen Person – v12 &

15

By becoming God's chosen person. Remember verse 12, **Therefore, as God's chosen people . . .** 9

How do you become God's chosen person? 10

Understand the gospel. The Lord died on the cross making your salvation possible. 11

The gospel was presented to you which gave you a choice. Make the right choice! 12

God wants everybody, but He chooses only those who first choose Him. 13

So, you become a chosen person when you accept Jesus as Lord and commit your life to Him. It's like the commitment of marriage. In fact, Lord Jesus calls those who have chosen and committed their lives to Him, the church, His bride! 14

Notice how God feels about you, His chosen person, when you make this choice. 15

You are **chosen**.⁶ This word means you are a favorite; selected from a group of items. You are selected, or the “elect” one.

My wife carefully selects a produce item from the grocery store before placing it in her bag by inspecting it, thumping it and squeezing it. Each piece goes through this process before she accepts it. That’s the flavor of this word.¹⁶

You are chosen to be adopted.⁷¹⁷ You are chosen to do good works.⁸¹⁸ You were chosen to be conformed to His likeness.⁹¹⁹

You are **holy**.¹⁰ The meaning of this word is “set apart”. Other words in the New Testament related to this word are the words “sanctify” and “saint”. God sets you apart from this secular world!²⁰

⁶ ἐκλεκτός.

⁷ Ephesians 1:5 - he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

⁸ Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

⁹ Romans 8:29 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

¹⁰ ἅγιος.

You are **dearly loved**.¹¹ This word implies that God loves you because you need to be loved badly. God loves you very much!²¹

Now, notice verse 15, **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.** God chooses you by calling you from the world into the church. The church consists of the “called out” people; that’s what the word “church” means!

This body God calls you into has only one purpose; to represent Lord Jesus to a lost and dying world!²²

The second way to get the peace of Christ is . . .

II. By Developing the Lord’s Character – v12-14

By developing the Lord’s character. Notice, again, verses 12 through 14, **Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever**

¹¹ ἀγαπάω.

grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ²³

This list of virtues ¹² sounds a lot like the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians, chapter 5, verses 22 and 23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These fruit are a partial list of God's character He desires to implant in you!

This list in verses 12 through 14 adds to the list in Galatians, chapter 5. ²⁴

In verse 12, **Compassion ¹³ means the inward parts of your body; your heart, liver, lungs, etc. It's your emotions. This word pictures you to be so emotional about something that you feel it physically.** ²⁵

¹² vs 12-14 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹³ σπλάγχνον.

Also in verse 12 is **humility**.¹⁴ This is goodness, excellence, uprightness.²⁶

Next, in verse 13 there's the phrase **bear with each other**¹⁵ which comes from the word which means to endure, bear with, hear or listen to willingly.²⁷

Also in verse 13 is the word **forgiveness**,¹⁶ related to the word "grace", meaning "to grant a favor, to give freely".²⁸

Then the word **thankfulness**¹⁷ found in verse 15 and, again, in verse 17, means to be grateful. The ceremony of the Lord's Supper or Communion Service in many churches is called the "Eucharist". That name is this word.²⁹

So, how do you begin developing this fruit in your life, along with the character traits of Galatians, chapter 5? You begin to develop these fruit when you come to

¹⁴ ταπεινοφροσύνη.

¹⁵ ἀνέχομαι.

¹⁶ χαρίζομαι.

¹⁷ εὐχαριστέω.

know the Lord as His Holy Spirit indwells your life.
You begin becoming more and more Christ-like! ³⁰

The third way to get the peace of Christ is . . .

III. By Allowing the Word of Christ to Dwell in You Richly – v16

By allowing the word of Christ to dwell in you richly.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach
and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as
you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with
gratitude in your hearts to God.

You can begin developing this practice through five
biblical steps. ³¹

Step 1: **allow yourself to be disciplined.** Matthew,
chapter 28, verses 19 and 20, **Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of
the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and
teaching them to obey everything I have commanded
you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end**

of the age. Being disciplined means being willing to be a student. ³²

Step 2: hear, read and meditate on the word of God. Psalm, chapter 119, verse 11, I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you; ³³ verse 16, I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word and ³⁴ verse 67, **Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.** ³⁵

Step 3 goes back to our scripture in Colossians, chapter 3, verse 16, to **teach it.** You have to understand it first with being disciplined by hearing, reading and meditating on it. ³⁶

Step 4 is to **admonish** ¹⁸ **it.** The word “admonish” means to gently correct and persuade. Keep in mind, it needs to convict you before it can admonish. ³⁷

Step 5: sing it. Celebrate it. You can sing it in praise back to the Lord! That’s how the word travels full circle in your life! ³⁸

¹⁸ νοουθετέω.

The fourth way to get the peace of Christ is . . .

IV. By Representing the Lord Accurately in Your Life – v17

By representing the Lord accurately in your life. ³⁹

The Apostle Paul considered himself to be an ambassador of Christ. In Ephesians, chapter 6, verse 20, he says, . . . **for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.** ⁴⁰ He, then, includes each of us as ambassadors. In Second Corinthians, chapter 5, verse 20, he says, **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.** ⁴¹

Well, then, what does an ambassador do? ⁴² A national ambassador represents his country's government in a foreign country, right? ⁴³ A Christian ambassador represents the Lord Jesus. You represent the Lord Jesus best when you exhibit His peace! ⁴⁴

How do you get the peace of Christ? You need to, first, become His chosen person. Then, develop His

character in your life. Then, let the word infiltrate your life. Then, represent Him as His ambassador.

Then, you'll know what the peace of Christ is all about!

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