

b. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

c. Ephesians 2:14, 17-18

8. What role does prayer play in allowing peace to rule in our hearts? See Philippians 4:6-7.

Day 2—Verse 15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. --Colossians 3:15

1. What does the phrase “in one body” indicate about the context in which this peace is to be evident?

2. How does Ephesians 4:1-6 help us to see the beauty of one body?

- a. How can this be a motivation for you to dress in virtues that maintain peace?

3. What are some things that threaten to undo the peace in the body of Christ?

4. Why is it important for peace to rule in our hearts in the face of disagreements, personal interests, and concerns?

5. What happens in the church when we do not let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts?

6. Why should we be thankful?

7. What can a lack of gratitude indicate? (See Rom. 1:21-23)

8. How would this verse be contrary to what the Gnostics were teaching?

Heart Check

- Are there any relationships between you and another where there is a lack of peace? How can putting on the virtues from vs 12-14 help peace to rule in your heart again and have you fulling, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men?” Romans 12:18

Day 3—Verse 16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with gratefulness in your hearts to God. --Colossians 3:16

1. Define the word dwell. What do you picture when you think of that word?
2. Read Deut. 11:18-20, and Prov. 3:1-6. How do these passages help you understand what it means for the word of Christ to dwell in you richly?
3. This verse’s focus on corporate worship points to the necessity of having the word of God dwell richly in the assembly of the saints. According to the following verses, how do we benefit from having the word of God richly dwell in us?
 - a. Joshua 1:8-9
 - b. Psalm 1:1-2

c. Psalm 119:9

d. Psalm 119:11

e. Jeremiah 15:16

f. John 15:3

g. John 17:17

h. Acts 20:32

i. 1 Peter 2:2

4. According to this verse, what are 2 ways that facilitate the rich dwelling of the word of Christ in our lives?

a. What is to characterize the way we teach and admonish one another?

- d. James 1:5

 - e. James 3:13

 - f. James 3:17
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3. Our culture does not like to be admonished. How does Prov. 27:6 and Heb. 3:13 show us the value of it?

 4. How do verses 12-14 help us understand how we are to teach and admonish others?

 5. Who is doing the teaching and admonishing in this verse?

 6. What does this teach you about your role in the body of Christ?

7. Our elders go through a rigorous process to make sure the lyrics we sing are doctrinally sound. Have you ever thought about the songs, hymns, and spiritual songs that we sing on Sunday as a tool for teaching and admonishing?
 - a. Do this help you to see why they are so serious about it?

 - b. What is at stake if the songs we sing are not accomplishing this task?

8. Why should we sing with gratefulness?

Heart check:

- If we are to admonish others, we should expect to be admonished as well. How do you react when others admonish you? How should you react?

- Susan Heck says, “We need to remember, when we are the recipients of admonishment, to be gentle and humble as we receive it and examine our hearts before God to see if what is being said is valid. It is the proud woman who defends herself without serious examination of the heart.” Do you take admonishment you receive with a heart ready to examine, or are you more prone to react in the moment and defend yourself? How can this create a hard heart and blind spots in your walk with the Lord?

Day 5—Verse 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. --Colossians 3:17

1. Whatever we do in word or deed is a high bar! Is there anything that is exempt from this command?
2. What happens when our words and deeds do not match?
3. Why are we to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus?
4. List some of the things that we should be thankful to God for.

5. Find all the verses in Colossians where Paul is admonishing the Colossians to “give thanks/be grateful”.

a. What does this tell you about its importance?

6. How would receiving the teaching of the Gnostics have been an act of ungratefulness or a lack of thanksgiving?

a. How would thankfulness help in arming the Colossians to refuse their teachings?

7. What are the three primary commands given to us in these verses?

Heart check:

- Are you thankful to God? Is there any of area of your life where you are discontent?
- Are you glorifying God with your words and deeds?
- Where you are not giving thanks to God?
- Are there any of these three commands that you are struggling with? What do you need to do to be obedient in that area?

Dig Deeper:

One of the ways we have the word of Christ dwell in us richly is through memorization. Listen to Susan Heck's session, "A Call to Scripture Memory":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWvPtTCni1E>