

## Sermon Outline for 04.15.18

### *Living Together When Christ is All in All*

"Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.<sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:11-16

In Colossians 3, Paul is teaching the church how to walk in light of the glory of the cross (chapter 1) with application to specific issues that he had beset in the Colossae community ("the Colossian Heresy," chapter 2.)

The believers ought to walk with the understanding of the hope and joy of Heaven, (vv 1-4). They are to put to death the anti-god energy that remains in them (vv 5-9). As they put to death this anti-god energy they are to simultaneously be continually renewed in the knowledge of Christ (v.10).

Verse 11 is the pivotal verse in understanding the community of Christ at Colossae and in every part of God's world, "Christ is all, and in all."

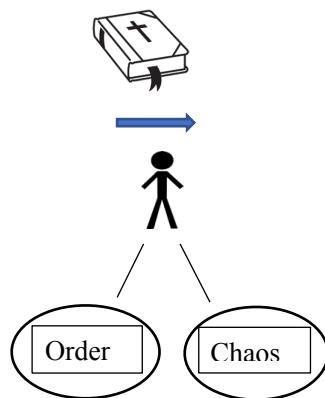
How to build on the renewal of knowledge in their thinking and the putting on of Spirit anointed attitudes?

1. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

\*Continually press into the glory and the mercy that is found in the cross of Christ while rejoicing in the forgiveness of sin by the work of our substitute/mediator/high priest Christ.

\*We are called to be in one body. A disciple is a forgiven sinner who is continuously learning Christ in repentance and FAITH WHILE IN COMMUNITY.

As the peace of Christ rules, we can push back the darkness of chaos because our feet are planted in the reality of God's Word.



"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup> for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil." Hebrews 5:12-14

\*The priesthood of all believers.

"For the reformers, the priesthood for all believers was never a matter of lonely, isolated seekers of truth, but rather a band of faithful believers united in a common confession as a local, visible congregation...the priesthood of believers is not a prerogative on which we can rest; it is a commission which sends us forth into the world to exercise a priestly ministry not for ourselves, but for those outside of the faith - for the sake of Christ and at his behest." First Things, Timothy George, 10/31/2016

The priesthood of believers involves:

- a. Understanding that there is one mediator between God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 2:3)
- b. A joyful responsibility to be in a local church and to serve others.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:10-11

- c. A joyful responsibility to represent Christ to the world.
  2. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...
    - \*Richly = abundantly
    - \*Wisdom = depth of understanding, resulting in application
    - \*Teaching = imparting knowledge
    - \*Admonishing = warning or encouraging

***Application Statements:***

1. When the grace of Christ continues to grip a person's heart it makes the individual kind and empathetic and easy to live with. They understand Matthew 7:1 and practice "plank time."
2. We need to grapple with understanding of the joyful responsibilities/obligation of "priesthood of all believers".
3. We need to get the word of God into our lives on a continual basis in ways that are appropriate for our age/stage. (Deuteronomy 6:1-5)  
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***Questions for Discussion:***

1. What do we mean when we talk about "plank time" (Matthew 7:1&f) or "getting inside of your own hula-hoop"?
2. Why does the grace of the cross make someone "easy to live with"?
3. Why is Colossians 3:11 foundational for experiencing community in the local church/body of Christ?
4. What is the indictment of Hebrews 5:12-14?
5. What is the difference between "teaching" and "admonishing" that leads to a life of wisdom?