



**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.**

Rule means **umpire**. It means “decider.”

Peace of Christ means:

- an agreement, pact, treaty, or **bond**
- an attitude of **rest** or security

Whenever I need an umpire in my life (decisions) I ask two questions:

- 1) Is it consistent with the fact that Jesus and I are on the **same** side?
- 2) Will it leave me with a deep and abiding **rest** in my heart?

The implication is that if the peace of Christ is ruling **your** life and my life so that Christ is calling the shots in all of us, then we as the **church** will be at peace in the same way.

It is hard to be worried, stressed and upset or prideful and selfish or acting against Jesus – all that **robs** us of our peace - when you are constantly **thanking** Him for everything.

### **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**

Word of Christ means the revelation, the truth, which Christ brought into the world; **Scripture**.

Dwell means to be at **home**.

How?

Handle it (2 Timothy 2:15)

- **Meditate** on it (Psalm 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:7)

Hide it (Psalm 119:11)

- **Memorize** it (Psalm 119:11)

Heed it (Matthew 13:9)

- **Mind** it (Psalm 19:10-11; 1 John 5:3)

Hold it forth (Philippians 2:16)

- **Minister** with it (Hebrews 3:13; Romans 10:17)

### **As you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom**

Teach – **positive** – do this and do that

Admonish – **negative** – don't do this and don't do that

Often God's instruction and correction come through other members in the church: people who care enough not only to **encourage** in the good times but to **confront** and correct when necessary. (Prov. 27:5-6; 1:7)

Paul assumes we will be doing this because God **expects** us to be doing this.

*With all wisdom* – James 3:13-18 – When we teach and admonish in that, then we **build** the peace that Paul has been talking about.

### **Sing ... with gratitude in your hearts to God**

When His Word dwells in us richly, it enables our **hearts** to match our mouths when we sing. We sing **thankful** that the songs are true and hoping that they will continue to be true in us.

The moment we lose track of the audience of **One**, we've lost track of why we're together. The purpose of the music is to minister to **God**.

### **Application**

To think that your life **outside** doesn't affect your life at church is wrong. Our peace as individuals day in and day out is what determines our peace as a body.

To think that you can be right with God and not be actively involved in the local **church** is wrong. God expects us to gather as the body of Christ to teach and admonish and sing in worship together.

To think that Sunday morning worship service is **enough** is wrong. We need to learn in Bible study, be in discussion of truth, and in accountability in application of that truth all with other believers.

To think that you individually aren't **crucial** is wrong. We are responsible for each other.

To think that our singing and the songs we sing are out of habit or tradition or are about your **taste** is wrong. Our praise is to be in response to the truth, a matter of the heart, and for our King.