



Sermon, Sunday June 13, 2021, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:12-17 ¹² As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Introduction: The Greek word Eiréné (εἰρήνη; peace)

The first thing Jesus proclaimed when He came into the world is the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the kingdom where justice and love of the Lord are fulfilled. However, the world we live in does not show us what is worthy of the kingdom of God. Wars, terrorism, poverty, famine, violence and murders continue all over the world. The church, called to be the agent of transformation in the world, must carry out its mission to restore peace.

The book of Colossians was written by Paul while he was in a Roman prison. The reason Paul wrote the book of Colossians is to protect the faith of the saints from heretical ideas that have entered the church. In particular, today's text is about how to live as a Christian. **The Apostle Paul exhorts us in Colossians 3:15: “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”**

This verse tells us that our hearts should be ruled by the peace of Christ. The Christian’s heart should not be governed by money, power, or honor of world, but through the peace of Christ.

The Greek word for peace is “**Eirene; εἰρήνη**”. This word has meanings such as harmonious relations between people, peace between nations, kindness, the absence of persecution, restoration of order, reconciliation between God and humans, and inner peace. May the peace of Christ abound in our inner hearts.

Body: Two Meanings of Christ's Peace

The peace of Christ can be expressed in two main ways; “**Inner Peace**” and “**Peace in Relationships**”.

1. Inner Peace

First, the peace of Christ is the inner peace of our hearts. What this means is that the peace of Christ is the peace that rules our hearts. However, inner peace doesn't just mean our emotional state. Inner peace is the authority of Christ over our hearts. The peace of Christ is the authority to control our wavering hearts. That is the peace that comes from the confidence in Christ that comes to us who are trembling in fear.

We see this inner peace in the Bible. After the resurrection, Jesus preaches peace to the disciples before leaving them. **John 14:27** says, “**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.**”



As this verse shows, the peace of Christ is with us in our fear. The peace of Christ rules our hearts even when we are unaware. The peace of Christ rules our hearts when we do not lose our trust in God. Therefore, we should ask the Lord for grace so that the peace of Christ may rule our hearts. May we live with the belief that the peace of the Lord protects ourselves, our families, churches, neighbors, society, country, and our world.

Now let's look at another meaning of Christ's peace. It is that the peace of Christ is relational peace.

2. Peace in Relationships.

Today's text Colossians chapter 3:15 says, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."

This verse says that the peace that Christ has made should be the basis of all our choices and decisions. Christians have become one body to enjoy the peace of Christ. This means that we are called from the Lord to enjoy the peace of Christ.

We must remember that Christians are called not to quarrel, to fight, to grumble, to divide, but to enjoy the peace that Christ has fulfilled for us.

Therefore, the peace of Christ is reconciliation with one another in relationship. In other words, the peace of Christ is a harmonious life between ourself and our neighbor.

So, how can we apply the rule of Christ's peace to our daily lives?

That is, in our choices, decisions, and use of language, we should always strive to achieve the peace of Christ in our relationship with our neighbors. If our decisions, choices and words hurt our neighbors, take away their peace, and cause economic and emotional harm to others, we must give up those decisions and choices.

Against this way of life, we might ask the following questions:

- Why do I have to lose my money for others?
- Why do I have to forgive first?
- Why do I have to make a concession first?
- Why should I give up my rights first?
- Why should I be kind first?
- Why do I have to open my heart first?
- Why do I have to be humbled first?
- Why should we consider the circumstances of others?
- Why should I share my possessions with others?
- Why do I have to love first?

There is one reason, because Jesus Christ did it first.

- Because Jesus has forgiven us.
- Because Jesus was empty himself for us and came as a servant to the world.
- Because Jesus first opened his heart and welcomed us.
- Because Jesus gave his life for us.
- Because Jesus died for us on the cross to reconcile with God.

In this way, we are called as one body to enjoy the peace that Christ has established. Therefore, when the peace of Christ is established in the relationship between people and people, our gratitude will overflow even more.

Conclusion: Fight the good fight for the peace of Christ!



Now let's summarize today's sermon. If we give up the peace of Christ in our own lives, we are no longer Christians. When the church gives up the peace of Christ, the kingdom of God that Jesus came to this earth and proclaimed cannot be fully realized in this world.

However, when we live for the peace of Christ, the world sees the peace of Jesus Christ through us. Therefore, please do your best to let the peace of Christ reign over you.

Book of Philippians chapter 1:29, the Apostle Paul says, "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him"

The Christian's mission is to do what we can for the fulfillment of the kingdom of God. Please fight the good fight for the peace of Christ to be established in the world. Sometimes we will face hardships, but the Lord is with us and will make us victorious in this battle. I bless you all to be the protagonists of such a fight.

