"When God Controls Our Hearts"

Colossians 3:15-17

9/25/2016

INTRODUCTION:

***Our hearts must be under the control of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

How? We must make 3 conscientious decisions to allow God full control of our hearts:

I. We must be Ruled by The <u>PEACE</u> of Christ (v. 15)

II. We must be Indwelt by The <u>WORD</u> of Christ (v. 16)

III. We must be Motivated to Do All in The <u>NAME</u> of Christ (v. 17)

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Examples of people out of control of their lives:

No control of their: emotions - tempers - thoughts - words - actions

*Reason for the above: Their heart is out of control.

That which is in your heart will either defile you (Mt. 12:35; 15:18) or honor you.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life (Prov. 4:23) (i.e. out of your heart flows what you think, feel, and do in life).

***Our hearts must be under the control of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

How? We must make 3 conscientious decisions to allow God full control of our hearts:

I. We must be Ruled by The PEACE of Christ (v. 15)

"Let the peace . . . rule" - present tense imperative (all the imperatives in vv 15-17 are present), calling for continual action.

(Not a one-time, occasional, or sporadic command; but a pattern of life.)

"Rule" = lit. to act as a referee, umpire, or arbitrator. It is the peace of God (Christ) that is to settle the differences that you have with others. It is the peace of God that is to call the decisions and control your emotions ("heart") toward others.

How we relate and respond to others is a reflection of what controls our hearts.

--If hatred rules in your heart, your response toward others will be viciousness or violence
--If envy or jealousy rules . . . defaming or stealing

--If lust . . . sexual impurity

--If pride . . . boasting

--If anger . . . evil words and actions

Whatever is in your heart determines the choices and decisions you make.

If the umpire who lives in you is peace, the "calls" (decisions) you make will be blessed.

Whenever you lose your inner peace (you don't "have peace" about something), you can know it is not God's will for you.

"In your hearts" - your "heart" is that part of you that provokes your will into action.

The heart, being the core of your being, is that part of you that takes in information (from the mind) and embraces it (or accepts it) and then responds to it.

If God's peace (the calmness and security that grips your soul because of salvation) is "calling the shots" in your heart, the result which will flow out of your life will be the mercy, kindness, humbleness, meekness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and love described in vv. 12-14.

Why is this exhortation given? Because too often some person arises with the church who is . . .

--cantankerous and divisive
--critical and judgmental
--murmuring and grumbling
--gossiping and spreading rumors

(Preacher's Outline, Vol. 9, p. 413)

When Christ's peace rules your heart, nothing will offend you (Ps. 119:165 - "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.") nor will anything alarm (upset) you (Is. 26:3 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee.").

"To the which" = into which peace God called you. When God called you unto Christ (for salvation), He also called you unto peace!

One of the most noticeable differences (changes) that Christ makes in the life of a saved sinner, is that He produces peace. He actually imparts His peace - John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Peace not only with God (Rom. 5:1), whereby He is no longer our enemy, but also peace with others (See Eph. 2:13-18).

God commands us to "seek peace and ensue (pursue) it" (I Pet. 3:11).

*SEE James 3:14-18

Is. 32:17 - "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

Peace is God's secret to unity of the brethren.

The "one body" describes the oneness of believers regardless of the nationality, culture types, or social status in life (v. 11)

Too many times this poem is a sad reality:

"To dwell above with saints we love,
Oh, that will be glory!
But to dwell below with saints we know,
Well, that's another story."

"And be ye thankful" - we should continually be thankful for the peace of God, and the unity it brings.

Be thankful for the "body" (the local church).

II. We must be Indwelt by The WORD of Christ (v. 16)

"The Word of Christ" - the inscripturated Word ("logos") which was written by Christ and about Christ!

"The Word of Christ" - most often this phrase occurs in Scripture as "the Word of God" (cp. I Thes. 1:8, 2:13, 4:15); however, to support the emphasis of the book of Colossians (which is Christ!), and to identify Christ as God (divine), Paul says "The Word of Christ."

"Dwell in you" - ["en" (in") + "oikeo" (house)]

God is commanding us to let Christ's Word continually live in us; to take up its residence; to be at home in our lives.

"Richly" = abundantly, totally, extensively. Christ's Word is to occupy every room of our lives; it is to fill every closet of our lives; it is to plaster every wall of our lives; and permeate every space of our lives.

No area of our being is to be void (empty) of Christ's Word.

--Intellect - It is to fill our minds
--Emotion - It is to control our emotions
--Will - It is to influence our choices

The believer is not to be satisfied with just a "meager visit" by the Word of Christ, but he is to "lay up" God's Word in his heart (Dt. 11:18), he is to "hide" God's Word in his heart (Ps. 119:11); & Christ's Word is to "abide" in his heart (Jn. 15:7).

"In all wisdom" - wisdom is the word - put into action; into daily life; into life's situations, circumstances, and problems.

No area of our life (whether our relationships, our responsibilities, our recreations) can afford to be missing the wisdom that comes from the Word!

But how can the Word inhabit our lives to a greater extent? How can it stay in our hearts and minds and not slip through the cracks of our depraved nature?

The 3 participles of verse 16 give the answer:

1. Teaching
2. Admonishing
3. Singing

The NIV translates verse 16 most accurately: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in your richly as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

The A.V. tends to place all of the emphasis on music as the key to instilling God's Word in your life. However, a closer look at the Greek text substantiates the fact that there are 3 keys to filling one's life with the Word. (Col. 1:28 also reveals Paul's use of the participles).

"Teaching" - to instill God's principles into the life of a person (to indoctrinate).

The early Church depended on the public teaching even to a greater extent than we do today. Reason: Not everyone had a Bible. Very few did.

The pastor's job is to teach (Eph. 4:11 - "pastors-teachers"; II Tim. 4:2 - "preach the Word...with doctrine"; I Tim. 4:16 - "Take heed...unto the doctrine").

By so doing he is feeding God's sheep (I Pet. 5:2; Jn. 21:16).

"Admonishing" - lit. to put in the mind; to confront the thinking of someone; to exhort and remind.

Whereas "teaching" involves giving principles, "admonition: involves giving application (encouraging obedience to those principles)

Balanced preaching will include both teaching and admonition; both instruction and exhortation; both meat and motivation; both explanation and application.

"One another" - reveals how every Christian (whether pastor or layman) needs to be challenged.

"Singing" - Singing is both the means to evidence of the Spirit's fullness (Eph. 5:18-19).

Music has a way of permanently cementing a principle or truth into our hearts.

"Psalms" - the psalms set to music
"Hymns" - praises to God
"Spiritual songs" - two ideas:
1) Songs that the Holy Spirit would approve of
2) Songs that involve a heavenly (spiritual) message (not humanistic lyrics)

"With grace" = with gracefulness, thankfulness (songs of appreciate; hymns that praise and bless God; lyrics that extol and give credit where credit is due).

"In your hearts" - a song is an expression of your heart. The type of music you listen to or sing reveals what is in your heart.

"To the Lord" - our songs are to be aimed at God, sung to Him.

In contrast, the world's songs ("love songs") usually involve a man singing to a woman or a woman to a man.

The more God-centered a song is, the better it is!

God is the One who has put a <u>new song</u> in our hearts (Ps. 40:3).

III. We must be Motivated to Do All in The NAME of Christ (v. 17)

"Whatsoever ye do" - no matter what you might do, practice, attempt, etc. Nothing excluded.

"In word or deed" - whether a spoken word or an acted work

All that man does can basically summed up by 3 words:

1) Think (internal)
2) Say (external)
3) Do (external)

What you say and do are a result of what you think. Therefore, before one can speak right or do right, he must think right (only as God's peace and Word (v. 15-16) control your thoughts, can you speak and do right).

"Do all in the name" - the phrase "in the name" basically means to say or do something on behalf of Christ. (Ex: prayer - "in the name of" means to ask for those things which Christ would want you to ask for; to request on behalf of Him, His will, His glory).

A name often refers to authority. A man's name signed to a check authorizes the withdrawal of money from the bank. The president's name signed to a bill makes it into a law (Wiersbe, p. 120).

In the same way, to do something in the name of Jesus means to do it with His authority and backing (EX: the performance of prophesying, casting out devils, and doing wonderful works in His name - Mt. 7:22).

If Jesus would not authorize or put His "stamp of approval" on something we say or do, then we should not say or do it!

Simply stated, we must say or do nothing that dishonors Christ. Whenever we speak, our words should be those that would not embarrass us if Christ was listening; whenever we do something, our actions should be those that would not cause us to stop, if Christ saw us.

*For indeed, our omniscient Lord does hear and see all that we say and do.

To speak "in the name of Jesus" - means that our every word should be for the glory of Jesus.

To do a deed "in the name of Jesus" means that our every action should be for His glory (Col. 3:23; I Cor. 10:31).

Follow in His steps, ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" (I Pet. 2:21).

"Giving thanks" - if you can thank God for it, then it is most likely okay for you to say it or do it.

Ask yourself, can I thank God for what I am about to say? Can I thank God for what I am about to do? (EX: Eating - I Tim. 4:4).

CONCLUSION: