

Brian – Jay = Ministered to our church | (Partnership) Nicaragua...Church of the Great I am | Celebrate

- Celebrate b/c thankful to God for all He does...seen & unseen (WILD) | **Today = Gratitude**
 - ‘Thankful to God’ overwhelming theme in Scripture...carpet bombed – Every Paul Letter – 1st Ch. I’m in danger...becoming a bummer – (Aware to Angry to Apathy) | Bummed ⇒ Bummer ⇒ Bum
- Concluded: Pursue God’s Glory w/ Gratitude | Preach...Pray...Pursue God with Gladness & Gratitude**
- Last few sermons – Putting off who we were (Old Identity) ...putting on our new identity in Christ (v12)
- Brian = Change in motivation – Forgiving as we’ve been forgiven – Love as we’ve been positioned
- Continue this week as we put on ‘Gratitude to and for the Lord’ as part of our New Identity**

Colossians 3:15-17 - And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 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. 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.

You learn what’s on the inside when something overflows – Radiator in Caden’s truck

So what’s our church made of? When we spill out the doors...and overflow into the streets?

BI – The Church Must Overflow with Gratitude to Christ

What we fill up on is what we’ll overflow with - Rivalry and Competition | Piety and Pride

- Activity = More stuff is better – Insecure idea that we have to work harder to appease God
 - What if we overflow with gratitude to God...not just because of what He does...who He is!
- In these verses = Kind of church God wants...where gratitude is a constant feature...we overflow
- It could change: Nature of interactions inside – Witness outside – Lives in all ways | **3 Outcomes**

1. **When Gratitude Overflows: Peace Supervises our Conflicts (15)**

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Bible Interpretation Pastor Jeremy – Whose Peace? What does it do? Where? Because? For what?

- Conflict will happen in the church | ‘Rule’ = Referee judging contest & gives rewards | Supervises
 - Who wins in our conflicts as a church? **The Peace of Christ Wins – Arbitrator is Peace**
 - Who doesn’t judge? Anger – Envy – Rivalry – Feelings | Agreement w/ His principles = Unity w/ his people
 - Peace isn’t the absence of conflict – Not ignoring the wrong when it happens = **False Peace** | **Jonah**
 - Practical: Aggression yields 1 of 3 outcomes = Matched Aggression / Defensiveness / Fear | None +
- Most Church Conflicts: My Way – My Feelings – - My Expectations - My Limited Understanding**
- Sometimes we have to set aside ‘my’ to protect ‘us’ for the glory of Him**

Recipe for Peace = Desire for Unity - Truth - Humility - Understanding - Repentance - Forgiveness

Not just a practice...it’s what we’re called to do | Like anything worth doing...it isn’t easy...worked at

Final caveat...last three words... – Gratitude as we move through conflict towards the peace of Christ

- ‘Peace of Christ’ - War between God & Man over (Gospel) ...so should the war between believers

Peace is a fundamental thing that Christians possess and the world lacks...we’re the chosen...act like it

2. **When Gratitude Overflows: The Word Strengthens our Commitments (16)**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, - ‘Let’ is interesting...invitation...to what? Dwell in you!

Let the house of your heart be a dwelling place for God’s Word | **Get relationship screwed up...**

Tool we use situationally - Shed - knock rust off - try to remember how - hope it can fix problem

- *Dwell* - Fill our lives - Every room...lives – Do its work - **Word of God is the lodging for our souls**
 - Richly – Best seat in the house - True in your life, but also in our gatherings as a church
- Sunday - Small Group - Discipleship - Whatever = Place of honor reserved for Scripture
- Tempted to give the Bible a supporting role or a cameo, and give center stage to our own ideas**
- We cannot afford to do this** - Richest, most honored words are those of God’s Word, not man’s
- teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom** | **What we do w/ word...Teach – Admonish - Wisdom**
- Whether we’re giving or receiving teaching and admonition, we want it to be wise
 - Wisdom doesn’t depend on the cleverness of the one giving it, but on their foundation & saturation
 - If founded on worldly ideas - saturated by worldly influences = worldly wisdom...not wisdom
 - If the teaching or admonishing...Scripture and a saturation in life = True Wisdom

Faked way...conversation? Anything culturally relevant – I’m faking it hoping not to be exposed

Don’t be that spiritual guy...don’t seek that guy | Be filled and seek those who are filled

singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God

It’s not just our teaching and conversation, but also our song. **Why bring music into it?**

Because music expresses more than just our knowledge, it expresses our heart’s cry

Music Motivates Mindset – You’ve memorized more song lyrics than Scripture...more than anything

Music is powerful – It’s a true ‘overflow’ of gratitude – **Corporate Worship isn’t a formality...formative**

When God’s Word really dwells within us richly, it will give rise to song | **Can’t preach it...won’t sing it**

When we rise and sing together...‘with thankfulness in our hearts to God’ – Voices rise as incense

Word of God...dwell richly...teach...admonish...wisdom...sing back to God...Strengthens Commitments

3. **When Gratitude Overflows: God’s Glory Superintends our Lives (17)**

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,

Whatever you do in word or deed – Used to count nouns | General command

By lip or by life - There is no sacred-secular split in God’s eyes; He is sovereign over all

Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus – Not name it and claim it

This isn’t ritualistic: it’s not about an incantation or making the sign of the cross

“in the name of...” = authority, that signals two things:

- Commitment to that authority – Acting in a way that represents the ‘Name’
 - Empowered by that authority – Not my own power but the power of the ‘Name’
- What if every noun (is) and verb (do) in your life was placed under the name of our Lord Jesus**
- Successful churches are driven by this...so are successful lives** | **Result**
- giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

I’m in danger of becoming a bummer – I don’t want to – Pursue God’s Glory with Gratitude

Every mature Christian, without exception, lives with overflowing gratitude

Matthew Henry – Never Before | Took belongings not life | Stuff...not much | Robbed...Not Robber

You learn what’s on the inside when something overflows

There is no such thing as a mature follower of Christ who is entitled, embittered, or self-centered

- When you’re looking for maturity – yourself or someone else – look at the role gratitude plays
- It’s the current that runs all three of these verses, and powers our lives**
- Gratitude is the consistent thread through every season and circumstance
 - Not conditional, not expecting God to do certain things, not entitled to blessings or ease
 - But simply grateful to be a worshiper of God and one who has been saved to life
- We have so much to be thankful for...Church Family...overflow with gratitude to Christ**