

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, PART 2

(Colossians 3:15–17)

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

Putting on the virtues of verses 12–14 with love binds God’s people together. As such, thankfulness and the peace of Christ are to characterize the believer’s life, knowing that they should see each other, think of each other, speak, and treat each other in love, aware always of their great gift from God. Therefore, whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (v. 17).

1.) Christian: Be thankful and let Christ rule your heart (v. 15–17)

- Let the rule of **peace** reign, which comes from the lordship of Christ.
- Let the **Word** of Christ dwell within you through worship (with psalms, hymns, songs, singing, and thankfulness to God).
- In Christ, be **thankful**. Let all that you do, whether by **act** or **speech**, be for the **glory** of Christ.

APPLICATION:¹

Why is thankfulness so important? How might the thankfulness of a fellowship of Christian people be a good indication of its spiritual health? As a Christian, you always represent Christ—wherever you go and with whatever you say. Believers can go about their lives—working, playing, studying, planning—and should do everything to the glory of God with thanks in their hearts. What impression do people have of Christ when they see or talk with you? What changes do you need to make in your life to honor Christ?

“When others hurt us, we must have an umpire inside that says, “Peace.” We need to call a time-out on our passions and reactions; then, we can think about the peace that God has won for us in Christ’s death. This kind of tranquility and cooperation does not come from mere human effort. It requires God’s help to enable people to get along. Paul does not teach “peace at any price.” Instead, he encourages believers to embrace God’s peace and be under his control as they make courageous moral decisions for the truth and the right.”

In summary, thankful people worship Christ wholeheartedly because God’s peace rules their hearts. Discontented people constantly calculate what is wrong with their lot in life. Christian, be thankful. God has blessed you wonderfully in Christ. To increase your thankfulness, take an inventory of all you have (include your relationships, memories, abilities, and family, as well as material possessions). Have you thanked God lately for all He has done?

¹ Kent Hughes, *Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ, Preaching the Word* (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989).
B. Barton and P. Comfort, *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon. Life Application Bible Commentary*, (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1995).