



SUMMER

with center grove

Scriptures for further study

Psalm 119:162 | 2 Corinthians 10:5 | 1 Peter 5:7 | Galatians 5:22

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with this statement, “everyone is ruled or controlled by something or someone”? The word for “rule” in Colossians 3:15 can accurately be translated “act as umpire.” In baseball, the game is “ruled” by the one granted the authority to do so. In life, is your tendency to be ruled or controlled by things, circumstances or people? How do emotions rule our lives? In what ways do past failures rule our lives? Why do we allow these things to rule our lives?
2. If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit and ruled by the peace of Christ, other forces will push themselves in and destroy the perfect peace He gives us. The peace brought by Christ should control believers’ hearts (Romans 8:6; Philippians 4:7; Ephesians 2:14). How do we practice letting the peace of Christ rule our hearts and minds?
3. Paul writes in verse 15, “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” He adds in 3:1-2, “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” According to these verses, what is the best way to position yourself to understand the peace of God? How do you retain this peace?
4. Philippians 4:6-7 says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus... 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” What tends to make us worry? Why are we so anxious about things? What are some ways to deal with worry and anxiety?
5. Paul does not leave us without means, in Colossians 3:16 he writes, “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.” D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, “Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself.” What do you think he meant by his statement? What does Paul encourage us to do?
6. Verse 17 says, “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.” What does this verse look like in the life of the believer?
7. How would you rate the level of your peace? Given the flood of threats to that peace every day, how are you handling the stresses and heaviness of your occupation, family life, societal pressures and ministry?