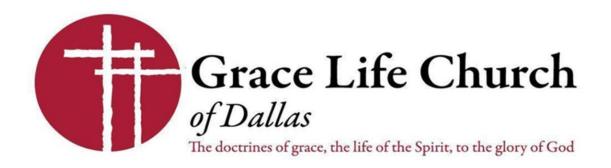


Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

The George Family has received another gift of the Lord

Praise the Lord For He is good





Colossians 3:15 And Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Hearts

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Colossians 3:15

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

There is Hope for Peace

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.

Luke 2:13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, **and on earth peace** among those with whom he is pleased!"

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, and He brings Peace through the gospel (Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection)

There is hope for peace (internally, and relationally with God and others) through Jesus Christ & Jesus Christ alone

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts

Paul associates peace with Jesus Christ: *let the peace of Christ* Jesus is God, and God is peace (*God of peace* (Rm 15:33, 16:20)

- Peace is not something apart from God/Jesus
- Jesus brings peace through the gospel
- Colossians 1:20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
- Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is peace, Jesus brings peace and Jesus gives peace
- **John 14:27** *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.*Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts

Rule: to be an umpire (to direct, control)

Our hearts: the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, understanding, will, character

Two Aspects of Ruling:

- The peace of Christ (Jesus is peace and has made peace with God through His shed blood (and all that that entails past, present and future)) should rule/control/direct our thoughts, passions, desires, affection, purposes
 - What are you worrying over now? What are you afraid of now?
 - What are you allowing to rule your heart in those areas?
 - How does the peace of Christ give eternal perspective to those areas?
- Christ lives within us all (Gal 2:20) and when we are walking according His Word, we have peace. When we walk contrary to His Word, we do NOT have peace. In this sense, we must allow the peace of Christ to rule our hearts.
 - How do we if what we are experiencing is the peace of Christ?
 - V16 The peace of Christ directing our steps will always coincide with His Word
 - As Christians, we have to face many difficult things, and we must not allow the difficulty of obedience to be misunderstood as a lack of peace.

To which indeed you were called into one body

If we are in Christ, we have this peace (Jesus, His peace & reconciliation), and if we are walking according to His Word, we will have this peace

- As a Christian, you were divinely called to this peace
- The peace of Christ unites us all and brings us all together (as a body in Christ and holds us together)
- Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
- Jesus works through His body (church) to promote peace and establish peace (As we fulfill the "one another's" towards each other)

This peace of Christ is a supernatural peace: It reconciles us to God, produces inward rest & security, and unites the whole body of Christ

- Knowing this, why would we turn to a false peace through a means other than Jesus Christ?
- Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts

May the Spirit of God, through the Word of God, keep us fixated on Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace

And be thankful

If your heart is being ruled by the peace of Jesus Christ:

- You are constantly remembering what Christ has accomplished, and your right standing & relationship with God as Father
- There is no worry or fear (Promises and Covenants in Christ)
- Your relationships are promoting unity and peace
- You are walking according to His Word for His glory and have inner peace

Jesus is sufficient (You are content)

- When you are content, you are thankful
- You hear that and you say, "I want that"
- Then heed the command & let the peace of Christ rule in your heart