

SERMON DISCUSSION

WHATEVER YOU DO

COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

The Study

The Gospel brings a profoundly satisfying peace to those who are saved. Paul calls us to use that peace as a guide in making decisions. (v15) We're to be filled with God's Word, both living by it ourselves and encouraging others to do so as well. (v16) A guiding principle of life is to render it all as under the authority of Christ Jesus. (v17)

V. 15 • Paul calls us to let God's peace rule (act as a guide/umpire) in our hearts. That call then extends to us collectively. We are to be a community governed by God's peace.

V. 16 • The key to understanding this verse is the meaning of the word "richly." It meant an **intentional display** of wealth. It's what rich people do to *make sure* everyone knows they *are* rich. What *we* are to make an intentional display of is the abundance of Christ's Word as the determinative factor of our lives and living. We do that by referring to it frequently in our conversations and interactions.

V. 17 • Paul wraps up this section by intentionally subsuming everything we do and say to the authority of Christ Jesus. In other words, if Jesus would *not* want to be associated with it, we ought not do nor say it.

All three of these verses end with a call to be thankful. The word "grace" in the last phrase of v. 16 was a synonym for thanks.

The Discussion

Sunday's message began by reading 2 Cor 5:17, then an illustration of the Christian Life being somewhat like the US Marshall's *Witness Relocation Program*.

Unpack that. How is being Born Again, then embracing our new identity in Christ like Witness Relocation? What happens in the Witness Relocation Program and how do those who are relocated "stay safe?"

What is your experience of the peace of God Paul speaks of here?

This might be a good time for some in your group to share a brief testimony. Focus on the change The Gospel made in & for you.

The words "let ... rule" are a grammatical construction that speaks of God's peace acting as an arbitrator; a judge determining the proper course to take. How do we use the peace of God in decision making?

What does it "look & sound" like when God's Word is dwelling in us "richly?"

Paul presents a picture of a group of people where the foundation and context of their conversation is immersed in God's Word.

What might that look like in practically?

Can we *really* live in this world subjecting EVERYTHING we do and say to the challenge of whether or not it aligns with Jesus?

What do we do when we fail to abide by this principle?