**Sermon Title: The Priority of Christ in the New Man’s Life, Part 4**

**Sermon Text: Colossians 3:15-17**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to maintain the priorities of the New Man’s Life.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 priorities of the New Man’s Life.**

**Introduction: Isaiah 9:6-7** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**IV. The 4th virtue is the fortifying factor. V.15**

**V. The 5th virtue is the filling factor. V.16**

**VI. The 6th virtue is the faithfulness factor. V.17**

**IV. The 4th virtue is the fortifying factor. V.15**

 A. The fortifying impact of the **peace** of God. V.15a

 There is now a peace treaty enacted by God, through Jesus Christ, on behalf of the believer. The peace treaty should now control the behavior, heart, emotions, and mind. (**Galatians 5:22**)

 **Romans 8:6** For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

 **Romans 15:13** Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

 **2 Corinthians 13:11** Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

 **Ephesians 2:14** For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

 **2 Thessalonians 3:16** Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

 **John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

 When we make choices we need to make choices that result in peace between God and us, as well as one another.

 1. Peace with the **brethren**. (**Philippians 4:1-3**)

 2. Peace with the **Lord**. (**Philippians 4:4-9**)

 3. Peace in all **circumstances**. (**Philippians 4:10-19**)

 B. The fortifying impact of the **rule** of peace. V.15b

 “Rule” is from (barbeus), a word used only here in the New Testament (compound form in 2:18). It is used to describe the activity of an umpire in deciding the outcome of an athletic contest. The peace of God is to guide believers in making decisions. Two factors:

 1. Is the decision consistent with the fact that a believer is now at peace with God and on the same side?

 **1 Corinthians 6:17-18** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. **18** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

 2. Will it leave me with a deep and abiding peace inwardly?

 C. The fortifying impact of the **call** of the church. V.15c

 The previous two factors are deterrents to sin in the believer’s life. Sin will always hinder, if not destroy the rest and security of peace in the believer’s inner man.

 Peace that rules the believer’s heart is objective, subjective, but also relational. Believers were chosen (were called) to live in peace “in one body.” Peace with God, and the peace with God, is to be reflected in the unity and harmony with one another.

 Therefore, we must reflect the attitude of thankfulness because we have received so much in Christ. To maintain a consistent peaceful heart (inner man) one has to be thankful. Ingratitude has always been a characteristic of unbelievers.

 (**Colossians 1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15, 16, 17; 4:2**)

 **Romans 1:21** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

 **Ephesians 5:20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

 **Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

 **1 Thessalonians 5:18** in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

 **Hebrews 13:15** Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.

**V. The 5th virtue is the filling factor. V.16**

 A. The **exhortation** about the Word of Christ. V.16a

 This refers to the message about the person and work of Christ. We should let the message and teachings of Christ permeate our whole being and life, while making choices and decisions and plans in light of the Scriptures.

 B. The **example** about the Word of Christ. V.16b

 The word “dwell” (inoikeo) means “to live in,” or “to be at home.”

 Richly (plousios) could be translated “abundantly” or “extravagantly” rich. The truths and teaching of Scriptures should permeate every aspect of the believer’s being and life. They are to govern every thought, word, and deed.

 1. The Word of God dwells in us when we **hear** it regularly.

 **Matthew 13:9** "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

 2. The Word of God dwells in us when we **handle** it regularly.

 **2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

 3. The Word of God dwells in us when we **hide** it in our hearts.

 **Psalm 119:11** Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

 4. The Word of God dwells in us when we **hold fast** to it.

 **Philippians 2:16** holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

 5. The Word of God dwells in us when we **meditate** on it.

 **Philippians 4:8-9** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things. **9** The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

 C. The **expectation** about the Word of Christ. V.16c

 1. To be done in all wisdom (Balance) means.

 2. To be done by teaching (Positive) means.

 3. To be done by admonishing (Negative) means.

 This is the negative side of teaching. It means to warn people of the consequences of their behavior.

 D. The **expression** of the Word of Christ. V.16d

 The Spirit filled life produces an expression of song or music, in the spirit, soul, mind, and body of the believer, individually and corporately. There is the heart that sings, walk in the Spirit, because they are filled with the Spirit. They have an inside joy that manifests itself in song, to sing His praises, appreciation, and glory.

 1. Psalms as an expression.

 2. Hymns as an expression. (**Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:6-11**)

 3. Spiritual songs as an expression.

 These emphasized testimony.

 **Revelation 5:9-10** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10** And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

 4. Singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.

**VI. The 6th virtue is the faithfulness factor. V.17**

 (Name of Christ)

 The basic rule of thumb for living the Christian life is the motivation and character with which we do everything. To do everything in the name of Christ, is to be consistent with who Jesus is, and what He represents.

 When we are faced with a question, situation, decision, or circumstance, injury, persecution, offenses, relationship issues, we should simply seek and strive to ask the question:

 “What conduct would be appropriate for someone who identifies with the name of Jesus Christ?”

 This is to be done without reluctance, despair, or legalism and liberalism, but is done with an attitude of gratitude. (Romans 13:14)

 “The goal of the Christian life is Christlikeness in everything!”