


## Be At Peace With One Another

Three concluding commands of Colossians 3:15-17:

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1. Continue being at peace given by the Holy Spirit.
  2. Continually thankful to God the Father.
  3. To continue all your life getting to Know the teachings about Jesus Christ.

Continue being at peace given by the Holy Spirit

**Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body;**

The verse starts off with a concluding conjunction: **And** Then, we have a definite article, specifying or identifying **The Peace** which is further identified: **and The Peace of Christ.**

What is meant by ‘the peace of Christ?’

You will know that you are in the Angelic Conflict or the spiritual warfare when all you cry out for is inner peace! Not money, not success, not things or even not people but please God give me inner peace that I might sleep! Well, here is the good news: you can have this inner peace, called here the peace of Christ.

And since this peace is so important to every believer, especially in times of Tribulation, we need to look at this peace.

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*Doctrine of Peace*

I. First, let's just look at the word-concept of peace itself.

*Eirene* where we get the girl's name, *Irene*. Opposite of war or dissension; peace, harmony. Spiritually: peace of mind, tranquility existing because of imputed Divine Righteousness (+R) and Justice – reconciliation with God. But there are other categories of understanding of this word *peace*: health, welfare, even prosperity or even happiness. This word is much like the Hebrew *shalom* — peace, joy, welfare etc.

But the word carries fundamentally two opposite ideas:

- a) what is present: harmony, tranquility, peace.
- b) what is absent: absence of war or turmoil or hostility or any grievance between parties.

A person may be prosperous but have no peace inside his soul; while a person may be doing very poorly as far as the world is concerned and have great peace in his soul.

A person may be at war with someone but have inner peace in his soul.

II. There are two ways of looking at our Peace and God:

1. Peace with God and Peace of God: There are two similar phrases in the Bible, 'Peace with God,' and 'Peace of God' that have very different doctrinal meanings. It is important to make this distinction.
2. In Rom. 5:1 **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ** while in Phil. 4:7 **and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in**

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**Christ Jesus.** Please note that Jesus Christ is involved in both concepts of peace and God.

3. Peace with God is a *peace* that is from the cross work of Jesus Christ. When one believes in Jesus Christ He is in a state of peace with God. On the cross Jesus Christ broke down the barrier between man and God and established peace *with* God. This peace is available to everyone, anyone who will believe in Jesus Christ as Savior.

4. Peace of God this is *peace* as a fruit of the Holy Spirit...

**Gal. 5:22 the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy** (inner happiness), **peace** (inner tranquility), **longsuffering** (patience in regard to others), **kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control**

Every believer is in a state of peace with God by faith in Jesus Christ. But, in our lives the believer may or may not experience inner peace!

This peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. This peace is not based on circumstances of life but on the power and filling of the Holy Spirit, by faith in the Holy Spirit. So, every believer should know how to be filled by the Holy Spirit by grace through faith.

5. Peace with God is the result of faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation 1  
Peace. Rom 5:1

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Peace of God faith in the Holy Spirit: this is a peace that comes to the believer during his life when he is in faith in the Holy Spirit Salvation 2 Peace. Rom. 8:6; 14:17; 15:13; Gal. 5:22

The Holy Spirit was given to us the moment we believed in Jesus Christ (Indwelling of the Holy Spirit) so that the believer can experience in his life, his position with God and with Jesus Christ; like imputed Divine Righteousness (+R) — living a +R life; and here with peace. We have eternal peace with God due to our position in Jesus Christ but we can experience this peace by power of the Holy Spirit who will pour this peace into our hearts regardless of circumstances in life.

6. Peace with God is not experienced. It is our eternal position with God. The believer can never lose it. However, peace of God can be experienced regardless of circumstances in life. It is fruit of the Holy Spirit, but it can be lost when we stop walking by faith.
7. Peace with God can never change. But, you can lose the peace of God...not walk by faith in the Holy Spirit.
8. Both Peace **with** God and Peace **of** God are provided by the person and the work of Jesus Christ. Compare: Romans 5:1 **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ** and Philippians 4:7 **peace of God in Christ Jesus**.

III. The Gospel is called the Gospel of Peace Eph. 6:15

**Isaiah 52:7 How lovely on the mountains Are  
the feet of him who brings good news Who  
announces peace and brings good news of**

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**happiness, Who announces salvation, and  
says to Zion, Your God reigns**

IV. Message of Peace as a salutation – Paul begins every one of his letters with **peace to you**; Peter does the same as does Jude.

Principle: In a time when the world was in constant turmoil where you were not sure who was a friend or foe, when Anti-Christianity was everywhere, *peace* signifies what manner of relationship you were bringing. Paul's message is one of peace! Not anger, hostility, but peace.

V. Peace in the Christian life: First, we are to live in a sphere of peace poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Then, when you have this peace in you, it should flow out from you. Therefore, we are to live in peace with one another.

**Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends  
on you, be at peace with all men.**

One of the many things that will happen when believers walk by faith in the Holy Spirit is peace with one another. You will go out of your way to maintain peace with one another. Stealing from one another does not promote peace, harsh words do not promote peace; striking one another does not promote peace; wronging another believer does not promote peace.

**Romans 14:19 So then let us pursue the  
things which make for peace and the building  
up of one another.**

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You know what Christians are really good at doing? Little sarcastic remarks to another believer or about another believer.

At home, work, church etc. running down things about one another; just little remarks that hurt their soul! And often you are not even aware of what comes out of your mouth. You are not filled by the Holy Spirit and you can cause another believer to quickly leave peace of the Holy Spirit by reacting to what you just said or did.

**2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.**

VI. Why are we to live in peace with one another? And with others in the world?

First, this creates an environment for the gospel.

**Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.**

What in the world does this mean?

First this refers to the sanctification referred to in

**Hebrews 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

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**Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has  
perfected for all time those who are sanctified.**

Now back to Hebrews 12:14 how can our sanctification cause others to see God?

First, we are sanctified, set apart to God.

Secondly, we are to witness to the lost world of Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, we must understand the full significance of sanctification and its meaning and application in our daily lives. We are to live and speak as those who have been set apart to God. The point here is that if we do not pursue peace, but rather antagonize others, cause strife with others how can they desire to have a relationship with our God?

So in answer to the question: why are we to live in peace with others?

First, this creates an environment for the gospel.

2<sup>nd</sup> It is a result of Loving as Jesus Christ loves.

3<sup>rd</sup> It may keep another believer from going into sin.

4<sup>th</sup> It may make it easier for another believer to be restored to fellowship with Holy Spirit.

5<sup>th</sup> In Romans 14:19 you being at peace with one another will make it easier for others to grow in doctrine and walk in the Holy Spirit.

6<sup>th</sup> It will help you, yourself maintain a Spirit-filled life and experience inner peace yourself. It hurts our souls when there is no peace between you and another believer.

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7<sup>th</sup> In the assembly with believers we are to strive for peace:

**Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,**

**Ephesians 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience-longsuffering, showing forbearance to one another in love,**

**Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**

Also, in the assembly we are to live in peace with one another.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, (pastor-teacher) and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,**

**1 Thessalonians 5:13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.**  
**Live in peace with one another.**

8<sup>th</sup> Peace is essential to having hope/confidence in life:

**Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, (walking by faith in the Holy Spirit) that/in order**



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**that** - (God fills you with joy and peace by the Holy Spirit in order that) **you may abound in hope/confidence by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

9<sup>th</sup> we are exhorted to allow peace to rule in our hearts:

**Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.**

VII. Ephesians 2:11-18

**Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember, that formerly (before Salvation) you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," (Jews) *which is performed in the flesh by human hands* — (circumcision has nothing to do with Salvation)**

**Ephesians 2:12 *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, (heirs of promise) and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.**

**Ephesians 2:13 But now (faith in Jesus Christ) in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

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(specifically, by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.)

**Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace,** (peace is a person, the person of Jesus Christ and He is our peace by removing the barrier and reconciling all to God the Father) **who made both *groups into one*, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,**

**Ephesians 2:15 by abolishing** (once and for all) **in His flesh** (humanity) **the enmity,** (the barrier) ***which is the Law of commandments*** (Mosaic Law) ***contained in ordinances,*** (Mosaic Law) **that in Himself He might make the two into one new man,** (union with Jesus Christ) **thus establishing peace,** (with God)

**Ephesians 2:16 and might reconcile them both** (Jew and Gentile) **in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.** (Removed the barrier between God and man.)

**Ephesians 2:17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY,** (Gentiles) **AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;** (Jews)

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**Ephesians 2:18 for through Him (Jesus Christ) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have our access in one Spirit (Holy Spirit) to the Father.** (God the Father — all three members of the Godhead are involved in our peace with God)

VIII. One final point that Paul makes in talking about **peace from God**.  
The God of peace will defeat Satan.

**Romans 16:20 And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.**

**Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body;**

This is the peace of Jesus Christ given to every believer by or through the Holy Spirit.

**John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”**

When you do not have this inner peace, you know that you are not filled by the Holy Spirit and occupied with Jesus Christ.

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This peace is described in

**John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**

This is in the context of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, this peace spoken of in Col. 3:15 is the peace that is a fruit of the Holy Spirit **Gal. 5:22 The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace** and this is a peace that every believer has the potential of experiencing by faith in the Holy Spirit.

**Colossians 3:15 and the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...**

This is the only place where the verb translated ‘to rule’ is used in the New Testament. Different Bibles translate it differently: *rule, control, guide in decisions you make, govern, preside, settle all questions.* Kenneth Wuest: *let it be acting as umpire in your hearts.* All these are attempts to translate the Greek word *brabeuo*. It was a common word in the athletic games of the ancient world which of course was very important in their lives. This word means to be an umpire. They had umpires or officials over the games. We are familiar with this in our society today in all our sports we have umpires, who have to make judgements about plays and winners and awards. In our passage we have the *Present Active Imperative* of this verb. This is the seventh imperative in Colossians chapter 3. Each one of these imperatives are given on the foundation that we have been raised up with Christ. Therefore, we are to

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live as ones who have been raised up with Christ. You should also remember that the *imperative mood* is the mood furthest removed from reality. This means that we have to make conscious decisions in regard to every one of these. And as we have noted they all call for a decision of faith. Remember that faith is antithetical to our flesh nature. Our flesh nature does not want to just trust God for anything, it desires to be part of the equation.

**Colossians 3:15 and the peace of Christ be an umpire in your hearts** used here for your soul, that area of your soul in your brain, that has to make decisions. So, what does this mean? What does it mean to let the peace of Christ be an umpire in your hearts?

This would be easy if it said let the Righteousness of Christ be the umpire in your decision making, or let justice guide you in making decisions. But it does not say these, it says, let the peace of Christ be an umpire in your hearts.

First of all, note carefully that this peace is a right out decision from you! This means when you have to make a decision in your relations with others: family, friends, church, work, society, when you have to make a decision, we are to allow peace to umpire how we will act.

1. Again we see that this begins with a mindset not on peace but on the Holy Spirit:

**Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,**

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So right off when we are confronted with situations in life where we have to decide what we are going to say or do, we should immediately let this be an alarm to check and see if we are trusting the Holy Spirit. Not thinking on the immediate problem but on the Holy Spirit. Then, if we allow Him to guide us, the umpire for our life will be peace. If we immediately revert to the flesh and take control we move into death — spiritual death.

2. There are unavoidable circumstances that intrude on our daily lives, from husband/wife, brother/sister, family members, friends, church, work. How are we to handle this unexpected, unavoidable conflict?

**Rom. 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.**

Responding in peace should be easy especially if they did not purposefully offend you. But dear Christian, even when they do something harmful, upsetting to you, even then we are to be at peace with them. In driving, is it worth getting out of the peace of the Holy Spirit when someone drives in a manner that disturbs you?

3. We studied in Col. 3:1 and 2 that we are to set our mind, our thinking on things above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, not on things of this earth. Let this umpire your thinking when your spiritual life is interrupted, challenged by others in life.

**Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

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**Romans 14:18 For he who in this way (peace with others) serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.**

**Romans 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.**

If we counter with argumentation how can they be restored to fellowship? We are responsible for an environment that leads to the spiritual building up of one another. This is especially true in the assembly.

**Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

4. Living in peace with one another should characterize our lives at home, at work, at church, wherever we go. To maintain peace should umpire every decision we make in life.

**1 Thessalonians 5:13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.**

5. Why should we make peace the umpire of our lives? First, because God commands that we do. But also, for the sake of being an effective witness for Christ.

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**Heb. 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.**

How can you witness to someone with whom you just reacted in a rather hostile manner: at the filling station, driving, in various stores you go into, at work etc. They will not want nor desire your Christ, if this is the way your Christ acts. So, remember at all times we are witnesses for Jesus Christ, yes, even in our homes. Why should your wife, husband, sister, brother etc. desire a growth in His Word, if the way you just acted and sounded is not appealing to them?

6. We grow in the Knowledge of God and in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ so that we may live a righteous life. But oh, dear people if we cause conflict or add to conflict by our reactions how can we even think that we are living a righteous life?

**James 3:18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

7. The Word of God instructs each of us how to live and how to get along with others: believers or unbelievers.

**1 Peter 3:8 To sum up,** (this Greek word means to end, or present the final purpose, that to which all the parts now come to fruition.) **all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;** (wow, you



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mean I have to be all these? Yes, but you cannot do this in the flesh, you can only do this by faith in the Holy Spirit. Then it is easy.)

**9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult,** (but you bring about peace in response to evil and insult, remember 1 Cor. 13:5 that spiritual love is not provoked and does not take into account when wronged and now under the impact of spiritual love you can respond in peace) **but giving a blessing instead;** (they don't deserve a blessing...neither do you!) **for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.**

**10 For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, (MEANINGFUL LIFE ON EARTH THAT COUNTS IN ETERNITY) TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.**

**11 "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.**

And then Peter declares a few verses down:

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**2 Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved,** (remember at all times this is who you are in Christ Col. 3:12) **since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him** (Jesus Christ, your savior-friend) **in peace, spotless and blameless,**

**2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.**