

Colossians 3:15 - 4:6

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

The second command would make unity and harmony the most important goal.

Two things are concerned here:

- 1) Personal peace and a sense of well being
- 2) Community harmony and a sense of cooperation

3:16 - 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.

And, note Ephesians parallel verse focuses on “be filled with the Spirit.” In Ephesian 5:18-21

Two sides of the same coin: The Word and The Spirit

- The “word of Christ” would be looking back at the words Christ had spoken, not to the ones he would speak as in an inner voice or personal witness to the individual hearts.
- Both the word of Christ (here, Col. 3:16) and being filled with the Spirit (Ep. 5:18-21) are parallel and result in similar products in the believers.
- The “word” is to be a driving force and determining factor in the body of believers living in harmony with each other and motivated by love.

It may be Paul avoided referring to the “spirit” and any form of personal mysticism to prevent the Colossians from misunderstanding what he was saying.

“Teaching” – orderly arrangement of truth

“Admonishing” – includes encouragement to live out the truth of the word of God that has been taught in a practical and moral fashion.

How this teaching and admonition was done? In song

- a. Psalms – Jewish style, maybe; Old Testament Psalms, but also consider 1 Corinthians 14:26 – “each one has a psalm.”
- b. Hymn – Greek style singing, maybe; only used in NT here and Ephesians 5:19. A celebration of praise or the proclamation of doctrinal truth such as Colossians 1:15-20 and Philippians 2:5-11
- c. Spiritual Songs – refers to spiritual inspired or directed lyrics. Note that “spiritual” qualifies all three: psalms, hymns and songs.

3:17 - 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.

3:18 - Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

3:19 - Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

3:20 - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

3:21 - Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

3:22 - Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

3:23 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

3:24 - knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

3:25 - For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4:1 – Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

4:2 – Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

4:3 – And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

4:4 – Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

- Greek “as is my duty” is translated “as I should.”

4:5 – Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

4:6 – Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”