

The Bond of Perfection

Colossians 3:8-17

May 10, 2025

1886 words · 10 min read

Sermon Summary

In the sermon, we delved into Colossians 3:14-18, focusing on the practical application of Paul's teachings. The main theme revolved around the importance of love, peace, the Word of Christ, and doing all things in the name of the Lord Jesus. Love, as the "bond of perfection," is emphasized as the foundational attribute that gives meaning to all other virtues. Peace, not just the absence of conflict but a deep tranquility rooted in trust in God, should govern our decisions. The Word of Christ should richly dwell in us, guiding our interactions and worship. Lastly, every word and deed should be done in Jesus' name, bringing glory to Him and gratitude to God. The central biblical message underscores the necessity of love, peace, and the Word of Christ in fostering unity within the body of Christ. The application points challenge us to embody these principles in our daily lives, relationships, and worship, ultimately reflecting Christ's glory in all we do.

Sermon Content

Mother's Day: *Comments here*

☆ MAIN POINT A

Announcements:

1. Congregational meeting Wednesday

2. Prayer for Seniors - 2nd Service
3. Mother's Day flowers upon exiting - Missouri right to life

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:14-18 (NKJV) - 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Introduction:

Remember that Paul is moving from the theological to the practical. Today we'll get the other bookend of where Paul started. In chapter 1, Jesus is the cosmic glue that hold everything that exists together. Today, we will discover that His love in and through us is the glue that holds the body of Christ together in true unity as we all seek to walk in our new wardrobe, the new man, created in the image of Christ. In putting off the works of our old nature (the flesh), we embrace the new man, kindness, patience, humility, meekness, purity, and forgiveness. But how do we hold it all together? Paul gives us four things this morning:

MAIN POINT 1

The Glue - Love

SCRIPTURE

[Col 3:14 NKJV] - 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Above all these things:

- He's not minimizing the importance of all the attributes we just discussed, but rather the one thing that makes them all valuable and meaningful: Love. Love has to do not only with the action, but with the motive behind what you do.
- In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul said you can have faith that moves mountains, speak in the tongues of men and angels, give your body to be burned for the sake of Christ, but if you have not love, you are nothing more than a clanging cymbal and a noisy gong.
- Love is agape love, characterized by self-sacrifice and a genuine desire to see others know and experience God in their lives.

ILLUSTRATION

The Greek phrase "Bond of Perfection" literally means "the binding ligament of completeness." Think of a tendon that holds muscle to bone—without it, you can't function. Love isn't optional decoration; it's the only way this community can stand firm, mature, and reflect the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:16 (ESV) [16] from whom all the body, being fitted and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love.

Beyond discrete ligaments, our bodies contain a continuous layer of fascia—an interwoven web of collagen that envelopes every muscle fiber, bone, nerve, and organ. It transmits force, maintains posture, and even houses pain receptors and immune cells. Without healthy fascia, your body loses integrity and mobility. In the same way, when love permeates every corner of our community—small groups, outreach teams, worship gatherings—it transmits strength, guards against “tears” in unity, and carries the life of Christ into every ministry. When the human body has fascia disorders, listen to the symptoms and long-lasting effects:

- ***Pain and discomfort***
- ***Limited mobility***
- ***Posture problems***
- ***Sensitive nerves***

Such is the body of Christ with a love problem: The people experience relational and emotional pain and discomfort, The church has issues moving forward within the will of God, The church’s posture is weak and frail, and the spiritual nerves that give the church feeling are scarred, bringing hardness and numbness to the church collective conscience.

The Governor - Peace

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:15 NKJV - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

APPLICATION

We have peace WITH God through the reconciling work of Jesus Christ on the cross (**Romans 5:1**). This peace signifies the restoration of our relationship with God, once broken by sin, now made whole through faith in Christ. However, beyond this reconciliation, we are also invited to experience the peace OF God, which surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). This divine peace is not merely the absence of conflict but a deep-seated tranquility rooted in trust in God's sovereignty and goodness. When faced with challenging decisions, seeking the peace of God serves as a guiding principle. This peace acts as a rule, governing our choices and leading us in the paths of righteousness (**Psalms 23:3**). The absence of this peace should give us pause, prompting us to seek God's wisdom and discernment before proceeding. For it is in the presence of God's peace that we find assurance, direction, and alignment with His will. Let us therefore seek not only reconciliation with God but also the abiding peace that flows from intimate communion with Him.

SCRIPTURE

John 14:27 (ESV) [27] Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, I give to you. Don't let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.

What kind of peace are you waiting for to lead you?

- The world's peace, when everything is set according to your standards.
- The Lord's peace - based on His provision, His protection, and His will.

SCRIPTURE

[Isa 26:3-4 NKJV] - 3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. 4 Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.

MAIN POINT 2a

The Power of Peace

What is the power of this peace God supplies? It's found in the word KEEP; You will KEEP him in perfect peace.

The word "keep" is the Hebrew word "Nasar." It means to set up a protective blockade around something and to put a watchman over the walls. It's the concept that Isaiah writes about in verse 1. Speaking of the future kingdom and New Jerusalem, he says, *"...He sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks." (deer in grass valley)*

In the same way that God's salvation serves as protective barriers around the future city, God's peace stemming from His salvation has the power to establish protective barriers and guards around our mental and emotional being!

And it's not just peace, it's God's PERFECT PEACE. The Hebrew here is a double emphasis. It's not just Shalom, it's written, "Shalom, Shalom." Not just peace, but complete, double, perfect peace! It reminds me of the supernatural peace Jesus spoke of.

☆ MAIN POINT 2b

The Position of Peace

The peace of God is available, but it's also conditional. In other words, in order for God's peace to be applied over your heart and mind, it has to first be accessed. Isaiah tells us that the perfect peace of God comes freely to those whose minds are STAYED upon Him. You could say that God's peace has a "KEEPING POWER" when our minds have a "STAYING PRIORITY." In order to partake of God's peace, we must position our thoughts to remain steadfastly on God, His character, and His promises.

The word stayed means – to lean and rest; to support oneself upon.

For example, if I couldn't walk, but needed a cane or a walker, I would be able to say, "I am kept mobile when my strength is stayed on the walker." I'm leaning on it, resting on it, and hanging on it. That's what the word stayed (sawmak) characterizes.

The human mind is constantly seeking support and solutions to the problems we face. We can choose to direct our thoughts so many places and lean on so many hopes and ideas that will ultimately leave us vulnerable to the enemies of God's peace.

- If my thoughts rest and lean on the latest political happenings, my peace becomes dependent on what happens, whose in power, and the decisions they make or don't make.
- If my thoughts are leaning and resting in my financial security, career, or relationships, then my peace is dependent on whether or not those things pan out according to my plan.
- If I'm constantly focused on problems or problem people in my life, then my peace will fluctuate with my circumstances or my acceptance from certain people.
- If I'm continually focused on myself, then my peace will vary based on how I look or feel, and that can be a disaster!

But if my mind and thoughts are leaning, resting, and hoping in the promises and truth of God, my peace does not fluctuate, because God does not fluctuate. His peace, that the world cannot give, sets a guard around me that is rooted in his unchanging character and goodness.

☆ MAIN POINT 2c

The Person of Peace

We need to understand that ***perfect peace is not found in a process but in a person.*** Peace doesn't come through self-help or realization, nor can it come through mere mental exercises. Perfect peace arrives because it stems from God himself.

Paul clearly told us of Jesus, "**Eph 2:14 NKJV] 14 For He Himself is our peace...**"

- With all our talk about staying the mind, I want to clarify that peace doesn't merely come from positive thinking. It's not the psychology of, ***"You are what you think."***

- No, peace comes from fixing our mind ON GOD, which ultimately proves that we trust Him. To know God, we must be in His word.
- Jesus to the storm - "Peace be Still..."

To which you were called in one body:

- The church is called to be a place of unity and peace.

📖 SCRIPTURE

[1Co 14:33 NKJV] 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

The enemy:

- God authors peace, while Satan authors turmoil. We are to be governed by God's peace, not only individually but also as a church.
- The Bible calls us to seek peace with each other, to be peacemakers, and to conduct ourselves and our spiritual gifts in a way that brings the church peace and not confusion.

🗨️ QUOTE

— Pastor Josh

"The peace of God only rules in the heart and the church that contains the Word of God."

☆ MAIN POINT 3

The Guard - The Word of Christ

📖 SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:16 NKJV - 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Word of Christ:

- Jesus is the Living Word of God. Everything he said and did was the communication of the Father. The Spirit has inspired the written Word of God that contains the heart and words of Jesus. Certainly, Paul wanted believers to dwell on Christ's teachings and words. There's nothing more powerful than letting God's Word grip your hearts, convict your soul, and ultimately change your life.

📖 SCRIPTURE

[Jhn 15:3 NKJV] - 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

When God's word dwells in you, certain things come out of you:

- Psalms - Singing God's Word
- Hymns - Singing doctrinal truths that transcend time
- Spiritual songs - Breath or wind, songs that connect to the spiritual depths of our being,

QUOTE

— Pastor Josh

Music is ministry that teaches, admonishes us, and draws us near to the very truths of God.

☆ MAIN POINT 4

The Gumption - Christ's Glory

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:17 NKJV - 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

QUOTE

— Pastor Josh

“If you’re doing something you’d be ashamed of doing in the name of Jesus, stop doing it!”

Discussion Questions

1. How does the concept of love being the "bond of perfection" challenge our understanding of unity within the body of Christ?
2. In what ways can we ensure that the love we demonstrate towards others is characterized by self-sacrifice and a genuine desire for their spiritual well-being?
3. Reflecting on the peace of God ruling in our hearts, how can we distinguish between seeking worldly peace, which is based on circumstances, and God's peace, which transcends understanding and guards our hearts and minds?
4. How can we practically position our minds to stay on God and His promises in order to access the perfect peace He offers?
5. Discuss the idea that perfect peace is not found in a process but in a person. How does fixing our minds on God and dwelling richly in His Word lead us to experience true peace?
6. In what ways can we allow the Word of Christ to dwell in us richly and impact our daily lives, interactions, and decisions within the body of Christ?
7. How does the call to do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus challenge us to evaluate our actions, words, and attitudes in light of honoring Him and bringing glory to His name?

Additional Resources



Small Group Guide

Use the discussion questions above to guide your small group conversation.



Personal Study

Take time to reflect on the questions and write down your thoughts.

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