

## *The Authority of Peace*

### *Colossians 3:15-17*

*“The ‘peace of Christ’ is not to be reduced to merely a subjective emotional state, ‘peace of mind’. It is the peace which Christ has won for us ‘by the blood of his cross’... It is cosmic in scope, embracing ‘all things’..., and yet is a gift from God our Father particularly to believers in Christ Jesus... It is a peace that can be described like this: He forgave us all our sins... This peace is now reality between us and God because of Jesus Christ.*

*This peace is now to rule in the company of believers. It is to hold sway, call the tune, among us. This peace is to determine our relationships with one another... We are to see each other, think of each other, speak and treat each other, conscious of this extraordinary peace. This peace from Christ is to be the decisive factor in our relationships with one another.” Woodhouse*

- I. Appropriating Jesus’ peace is just as important to God as taking off the soiled clothing of sin and putting on of the new clothing of righteousness. The more we take off the old self with its practices and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator (vv. 9-10), the more we will know and experience his peace.

**eirēnē** = peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord, security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous) Strong’s Lexicon

- A. Appropriating Jesus’ peace means to take the peace Jesus’ offers and give it to others for their benefit. The peace that he gives is three dimensional: It is Horizontal – peace with God (Col. 1:19-20), Vertical – peace with others (Eph. 4:3) and Internal (Isa. 26:3).

Col. 3:15

Col. 1:2

Rom. 16:20

2 Cor. 13:11

Phil 4:9

- B.** Appropriating Jesus' peace means that his peace must rule in our hearts so that his church can offer the ministry of reconciliation unencumbered by internal strife. It is to rule (have authority over) our relationship with God and with one another so that Christ is represented well before others.

Col. 1:15

1 Jn. 1:6-7

Jn. 17:21-23

2 Cor. 5:17-21

*"Paul wants us to understand that peace from Christ is much more than an option to be considered. It is an absolute mandate stemming from the very will of God."*  
Osborne

- II.** When Jesus' peace rules in the church it produces thanksgiving, which in turn brings about true worship of God through sincere, heartfelt praise, through grateful fellowship and through having a deep desire to let the Word of God change us more and more into the image of Christ.

Col. 3:16-17