

The Peace of Christ: Ruling Hearts, Safeguarding Unity, Generating Gratitude

Colossians 3:15

The peace of Christ is not merely an internal feeling or subjective experience; it is an objective reality secured for us through Christ's finished work. It now resides within us, ruling our hearts, safeguarding our unity, and fueling our gratitude.

The Peace of Christ is...

The _____ Jesus accomplished through the cross (foundational).

This is a precious gift that has been _____ by Christ alone and one that we have _____ through Christ alone.

The peace of Christ _____ with our reconciliation to God, but it does not _____ there.

The Peace of Christ is....

The internal _____ of our souls.

The peace of Christ in essence, should "_____ " over our entire lives, directing every aspect of our lives according to God's will rather than our imperfect emotions, self-centered preferences, or fluctuating circumstances.

Christ's peace is rooted in the unchanging character of Christ Himself. Jesus gives us peace because He is our peace. The peace of Christ is ultimately _____ himself (John 16:33 - in me you have peace; Eph 2:14 – He [Christ] himself is our peace).

Christ's finished work on the cross both _____ us to God (Rom 5:1; Col 1:20) and to each other (Eph 2:14-15).

The Peace of Christ safeguards...

Unity _____ (internally) and _____ (relationally) the body of Christ.

The peace of Christ is not merely an individual experience but a _____ reality; it is the governing reality of Christ's church, shaping our _____ throughout the body of Christ both universally and locally.

The distinguishing mark of the church is not _____ relationships but _____ relationships.

In a world marked by division and hostility, a church governed/umpired/refereed by the peace of Christ becomes a powerful _____ to the transforming work of the _____.

The fruit: vertical peace with God _____ horizontal peace with one another... expressly with those of the household of faith.

The Peace of Christ leads to...

A life of _____.

So, why is this important? Why does it matter? Why is it included?

Because discord arises from _____. Thankfulness is the _____ in which peace thrives.

A thankful heart resists attitudes that produce disunity because gratitude continually redirects our attention from what we lack or selfishly desire to what we have already received _____.

May our _____ with Christ be so abundant that His peace rules our hearts and our thanks to God is expressed by showing thanks to _____.

Conclusion

Exhortation: The peace of Christ resides _____ us (because of the redeeming work of Christ), presides _____ us (umpire's our hearts), and is reflected _____ us (in our unity and thankfulness).