Let Peace Rule

Colossians 3:13-17

What do football, soccer, basketball, and other sports all have in common? They all rely on referees. Without someone to enforce the rules, the game quickly turns chaotic. Referees aren't there to steal the spotlight they exist to keep the game fair, clear, and moving forward.

Paul uses a similar idea in Colossians 3:15 when he writes, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."* To let something "rule" means giving it authority. In sports, referees have that authority. In the Christian life, that authority belongs to Jesus. When we lay down our personal preferences, egos, and opinions and submit them to Him, something powerful happens: peace begins to guide our decisions and our relationships.

When Christ's peace is in charge, we respond differently to one another. We become more patient. We forgive more freely. We choose love, even when it's difficult (vv. 13–14). His peace doesn't just calm our hearts it shapes how we live together.

Paul reminds us that we aren't meant to do this alone. We are part of one body, called to live with gratitude for the guidance God has given us. His words help us learn how to treat one another well, and thanksgiving becomes the tone of our lives (v. 15). This spirit grows as we teach, encourage, and worship together: *"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly… singing to God with gratitude in your hearts"* (v. 16). Gratitude shows up again and again in this passage because a thankful heart naturally flows from a life ruled by Christ's peace.

In the end, Paul brings it all together: *"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed,"* when it's done in Jesus' name, it becomes an act of gratitude to God (v. 17). Everyday moments—our words, our choices, our interactions—become opportunities to reflect His peace and give thanks.

Let's Reflect

Where do you see Christ's peace at work in your life right now? How might others experience that peace through the way you treat them?