

Colossians 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Analysis

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. "Let the peace of God rule" (hē eirēnē tou Christou brabeuetō, ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ βραβεύετω) uses athletic imagery: peace acts as umpire/referee making decisions "in your hearts" (en tais kardiais hymōn, ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν). When conflicting impulses compete, let Christ's peace arbitrate, choosing courses producing peace over those creating turmoil.

"To the which also ye are called" reminds believers their calling includes peace. "In one body" (en heni sōmati, ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι) locates this peace corporately—not merely individual tranquility but communal harmony. "Be ye thankful" (eucharistoi ginesthe, εὐχάριστοι γίνεσθε) commands cultivating gratitude as fundamental Christian posture. Thankfulness prevents complaining, entitlement, and bitterness that destroy peace.

Historical Context

Ancient world featured constant anxiety: religious uncertainty, political instability, economic precarity, social conflict. Roman peace (Pax Romana) was imposed by military force. Christianity offered different peace—internal tranquility despite external circumstances, derived from relationship with Christ. This supernatural peace attracted those exhausted by anxiety and seeking rest for troubled souls. Early Christians' peace amid persecution testified powerfully to their faith's reality.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's peace function as umpire in your decision-making and emotional responses?
2. What disrupts your peace—circumstances, relationships, or internal attitudes like ingratitude?
3. How does your pursuit of peace affect your contribution to church unity and body life?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ Θεοῦ βραβεύετω ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις
And ^{G3588} **the peace** ^{G3588} **of God** **let** **in** ^{G3588} **hearts**
^{G2532} ^{G1515} ^{G2316} ^{G1018} ^{G1722} ^{G2588}

ὑμῶν εἰς ἣν καὶ ἐκλήθητε ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι· καὶ
your **to** **the which** **And** **ye are called** **in** **one** **body** **And**
^{G5216} ^{G1519} ^{G3739} ^{G2532} ^{G2564} ^{G1722} ^{G1520} ^{G4983} ^{G2532}

εὐχάριστοι γίνεσθε
thankful **be ye**
^{G2170} ^{G1096}

Additional Cross-References

John 14:27 (Peace): Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Isaiah 26:3 (Peace): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Romans 15:13 (Peace): Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (References God): In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Psalms 29:11 (Peace): The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

Colossians 3:17 (References God): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Romans 5:1 (Peace): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

John 16:33 (Peace): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Ephesians 5:20 (References God): Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

2 Corinthians 9:11 (References God): Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.