***Colossians 3:15-17 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16Let 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. 17And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.***

Last week, we talked about surrender. Surrender means to cease resistance, but there is another part contained within the definition of surrender. We are to cease resisting Almighty God when we surrender, but the second part of the definition of surrender is to submit to the authority of the One we surrendered to. Surrender is not complete until submission shows up. To be in submission, we must yield to the Will of God – all of His will – believing on His Son, being His disciples, and serving our brothers and sisters in Love. We are to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). We are to fear God and keep His commandments (Eccl 12:2). Our call is to surrender, submit, and serve. How are we doing?

Our scripture starts *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful****.*** Let the peace of God rule – that sounds like surrender – that sounds like we have ceased resisting and we have acknowledged Christ as our King. But there’s a choice. **Let** peace rule. Let the peace of God influence and inform every single corner of our lives, every decision we make, every goal we pursue. It’s a choice that Romans 8:6 addresses straight on. Paul writes, *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace* (there’s that word again)*.* Those that set their mind to pursue the flesh will not find peace. It leads to death. But those that focus on the Spirit will find life and peace. To which we are called in the one body, the church – Christ is the Head and we are the body, the hands and feet, the servants. Verse 15 closes – *and be thankful.* Be thankful that Christ Jesus conferred upon us the honor of being called according to His name. He calls us His friends. John 15:15 tells us that. But John 15:14 tells us something else *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.* This sounds like surrender. This sounds like submission. He has called us serve as His body and we are thankful!

Verse 16 starts *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.* Let – there’s that choice again. Let, meaning to allow or welcome the word of Christ – the Gospel that He has conferred upon us, and we are thankful for, dwell in us, inhabit us, completely. The Gospel is to inhabit our mind and heart, it’s to inform every part of our life. It’s to inhabit how we speak, what we choose as entertainment, how we react to others, and how we use what God has blessed us with. It’s to dwell richly, meaning abundantly to the greatest measure possible, in all wisdom, meaning we’re to give our best to study, understand, and open ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 16 ends *teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* Teaching and admonishing one another concerning our call as Christians. Being a Christian doesn’t begin and end on Sunday morning in a pew. No! It’s about service, taking up our cross, bearing witness to our Savior. It means Sacrifice. It means Self-control. Often, we won’t hear God’s admonishing Spirit in a sermon or a Sunday school room, but we’ll hear it in a hymn or a song. We’ll receive it in a poem or a well written devotional. We’ll receive it in the tearful testimony of a fellow Christian. Jesus tells us in John 14 that the Holy Spirit will teach us, but we must be discerning and diligent to learn. We are to sing with a humble and devout heart, filled to overflowing with the peace we let rule and the word of Christ we let dwell, to the Lord. He is the only one we glorify.

Verse 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.* That sounds a lot like grateful submission, yielding to the Will of God. Whatever you do in word or deed – what does this exclude? Any thought, any action - we do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, humbled that He chose us to be His and thankful for His hand upon us. Everything is included because, when we are sold out to Jesus, everything is worship. The Apostle Paul in 1 Thess 5:16-18 says *Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* The job we don’t like – rejoice, pray, give thanks. The situation that didn’t go our way – rejoice, pray, give thanks. The not so good diagnosis – rejoice, pray, give thanks. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for…? Me. You. We’re to do it all, in word or in deed giving thanks to God the Father through Christ His Son.

This week, let’s remember that our call is to surrender, submit, and serve. Many are willing to surrender, submit, and serve as long as it goes their way. This is submission to Self. Romans 8 tells us that this leads to death. In order to live, we must surrender our will, submit to God’s will, and serve His people – How are we doing?