



Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

GRATITUDE paves the way to PEACE.

Luke 10:36-37 (NIV)

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Colossians 3:11-14 (NIV)

¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

PEACE comes from sensing God's **PRESENCE**,
PLEASURE and His **PURPOSE**.

Presence - Through Christ's **ATONING**, forgiving work.

Pleasure - As we learn that God is not angry but takes **GREAT JOY** in us.

Purpose - As we become agents of reconciliation, **REDEMPTION** and His perfect **PEACE**.

SO WHAT:

Peace is tied to **GRATITUDE** and gratitude is tied to **HUMILITY**.

*God loves you.
He is on your side.
He is coming after you.
He is relentless.
~ Eugene Peterson*

NOTES:

***"If, 'Thank you,' is the only prayer you can utter in your lifetime,
that would be enough."***

~ Meister Eckhart



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Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

:: *What is one way that you can further live out thankfulness in your life?*

:: *When Jesus said, "Go and do likewise", what did he mean?*

:: *How have you personally experienced this statement of Jesus to be true?*

:: *Pastor Brandon talked about Jesus wanting "all of you." What parts of your life still need surrender to His care?*

:: *What are some practical ways you can live as an agent of peace this holiday season?*

:: *Identify someone you trust and ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable to do this.*

:: *As you consider the truth of being the church as opposed to going to church, how can you live that out in your daily life?*

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize you as my Savior; and I offer all that I am to you as my LORD. Help me to faithfully follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
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