

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“FASHION TIPS:
OFF THE RUNWAY”**

The purpose of developing godly hearts is to live a godly life. These past few weeks we have studied what the Lord desires and what He disdains in our hearts. From this, we can live out fully the life that God wants us to experience on earth. This life is not onto ourselves but is lived for God and for others. Our “fashionable” hearts are to model good deeds to the world around them.

DAY 1

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 12:27; James 4:1;
Ephesians 4:3

The Word

During the Christmas holidays, you will often hear many people say that what they want most for Christmas is “Peace on earth”. Of course, the focus of this wish is for there to be an end of wars between nations. As nice of a thing that it is to say, which is why many beauty contestants say it during pageants, the sentiment is impossible. Before you call me a pessimist and realize one of many reasons why I am not in a beauty pageant, please hear me out. Peace on earth is impossible without Jesus, for He alone has the title of Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). In other words, Peace is a place where He rules. For example, the Prince of England is from England and has authority in England. He does not, however, have authority in France. Following this logic, the Prince of Peace has authority over Whom He rules. The world, for now, is under the domain of Satan. Thus, true peace is impossible.

Is it hopeless? Are beauty contestants forced to find a new answer in pageants? Is holiday marketing a total waste? Not completely. For if you are in Christ then the Prince of Peace reigns over you. Where the Prince is, there is peace. Thus, you are a part of the “nation of peace” which is represented all over the world by all who call the Prince of Peace their King.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Verse 15: Throughout the world, throughout your nation, throughout your state, throughout your city, throughout your community are people who know Christ. Because of His ownership on our lives, we make up the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Verse 27: If a body is at war against itself, then it cannot survive. It is like the physical ailment called lupus. The disease of lupus is a disease where your immune system does not protect your body but instead forms antibodies that attack your tissues and organs. The body attacks itself. Spiritually speaking, we have lupus in the church whenever there are fights among us.

James 4:1

¹What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

Verse 1: If evil desires are in control, then there will fight and quarrel amongst the body of Christ! This spiritual lupus is devouring many churches today. The remedy is Peace. We must allow the peace of Christ rule in our hearts instead of our selfish desires. This peace bonds the body together so that we may live in unity.

Ephesians 4:3

³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Verse 3: We are to strive toward unity through the bond of Peace, who is Jesus. We are to make an effort to unite our hearts because we know that the same King in our lives indwells the other members of His body. The Spirit within me cannot be fighting with the Spirit within another believer. The Spirit is always in unity. So, if there is a fighting, then on one side or the other or on both sides there are selfish desires from within that are welling up. If desires are in control and not Peace, then there will be disharmony in the body of Christ. It is only when He rules in our hearts that peace and unity are attained.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Verse 15: You have a calling, together with all the members of the body of Christ, to live in peace. This peace is only achieved when Christ rules the heart. You cannot force others to have the Prince of Peace rule, but you can choose in your own life to set Him on the throne of your life. May you bring "Peace on earth" to the body of Christ.

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Prince of Peace to show you if you are helping or hindering His peace in the body of believers.

How is peace achieved?

If you are in disharmony with a member of the body, ask God to show you whether peace or selfish desires rule over your heart. Write His response here.

How can focusing on the fact that we are the body of Christ help us to live in peace?

If we do have a disagreement with a fellow believer, how can we make every effort to achieve peace?

Peace is not easy. We must let Christ rule in our hearts and we must make every effort towards peace. This involves submission to God and sacrifice to others. What are the benefits attained from working at peace?

True peace is an absence of dissension, not an avoidance of arguments. In other words, it is not faking “peace” or pretending there is not a problem between two people. How can fake “peace” be harmful in the long run?



The Word

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; James 5:9; 1 Corinthians 12:21-26

We learned yesterday that we are called to peace in the body of Christ. We did not study the phrase that came after this high calling. This sentence is one key in promoting peace in the church.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Verse 15: “And be thankful.” That one sentence is revolutionary. It can change our perspective on people and circumstances, on our past and future. This one sentence alone can radically impact your life if you will allow its truth to penetrate your soul. Do I sound like I am going over the top? Maybe it is because we view thanksgiving as a holiday that comes once a year. We do not understand that the way of a thankful life is a benefit not only to a believer but to everyone the believer has contact.

Thanksgiving is a matter of focus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Verse 18: If we would be thankful instead of negative, we would be kept from the sin of murmuring. To murmur is to complain. Often, as the body of Christ, we criticize other members of the body. The “foot” puts down the “hand”. We forget that God has placed that person in the body and that when we put down the created person, we are putting down his Creator as well!

James 5:9

⁹Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Verse 9: As the body, we all are connected to one another through Christ. This connection transcends time for we are united for eternity. We will stand together side by side in heaven praising God. This praise should begin now. As the body, we are to worship our Creator. Our words are to lift up God, not to put down others. To gossip against someone is to abuse the body of Christ!

1 Corinthians 12:21

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

Verse 21: We need one another. To keep us from gossip, from criticism, and from disdain; we need to be thankful. When we are thankful for one another, we will focus on the good in others. This will help us from highlighting the negatives. None of us are perfect. We are all on the journey to become more like Jesus Christ. We must be patient with one another as we become more and more like our Savior. We need to look for ways to be thankful for others. This will help promote peace and unity in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:22-26

²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are

unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Verse 22-26: There should be no division in the body. We are to work in harmony with one another. We are to show care, concern, and honor towards every believer. We may have different personalities, social skills, backgrounds, and talents. Yet, each of us has been placed by the Lord Himself into His own body. Whom He chooses should be treated with respect. If we all were respectful, we would have peace in the body. The journey towards peace begins with thanksgiving.

Up Close and Personal

Is there someone whom you are having difficulty with? Begin to pray for that person and thank God for certain qualities of that person. If you are struggling to begin, thank God that He is the Creator and that He chose that person to be a part of His body.

How does thanksgiving promote peace in the body of Christ?

How prevalent is criticism and gossip in your life? How can you begin to replace these sins with thanksgiving?

DAY
3

Today's Scripture:

Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

The Word

Hello, teacher. That is what you are. Did you not know? By the Word of God, you are called to teach others. This is not for certain Christians. Every Christian is called to know and teach the Word of God.

Colossians 3:16a

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom,

Verse 16: Every believer is responsible to know the Word of God. If you are not studying the Word of God on a daily basis then you are not living out your calling. The Word of God is to dwell in you. It can only dwell in you if you take time to draw it into yourself. You must make the effort for the Word of God so that the Word of God can affect change in you.

The Word of God is living and active. It is not words on a page but life to the soul. The Word is not meant to be a nice time of reading but a way of affecting change in life. To affect change in life it must be applied to life. The model God has set up for us to apply the Word of God is to teach and encourage one another with the Word of God. In other words, you share together what the Lord is teaching you in His Word. The Word is not for you alone but to be shared collectively with the believers around you.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

Verse 12-13: Whatever God teaches us so that we now know it in our minds, must be spoken aloud to others so that they can then know it as well. They in turn tell others and so on and so forth. God's will for us is that anytime we learn something new we are obligated to share that thought with others. Each person who hears a sermon on Sunday should be sharing what they learn throughout the week. Each day you learn something in Bible study, you must tell others about it. We must put words to those thoughts.

The enemy has silenced the church. We either think that only the pastor should share his biblical knowledge with others or we believe that the Word is only for ourselves. We have even named personal Bible studies as "quiet" times which have led us to just being quiet! We feast away on the Word and leave others starving. The sad truth is that we are being kept from progress because spiritual growth is derived from spiritual thought being combined with words. Not only that, we limit the growth of others by keeping biblical truths to ourselves.

If the enemy cannot keep us from reading the Word, he just keeps us quiet about it. We feel "spiritual" for reading it yet are unaware that the enemy is gaining victory in and around our lives. It is time for the muzzle to come off the mouth of the church. The enemy may try to make you feel uncomfortable in speaking aloud spiritual thoughts. He uses this tactic for he knows the power of the Word. We must stop cowering and take a stand by speaking the truth aloud to others.

It is time that the church reclaimed conversations for God. We have wasted enough words on worldly talking: weather, sports, movies, jokes, etc. We must speak the knowledge of God so that we can experience spiritual growth in our lives.

You are called by God to be a teacher. Whom are you teaching?

Up Close and Personal

Praise God for giving us the Word of God. Thank Him that you have access to His thoughts and ways by reading the Bible.

How does it feel to know that you are called by God to teach others?

Think through your conversations from today. How often did you speak about the Word of God?

What are your conversations mainly about?

How can you begin to speak more about the Word of God throughout the day?

How does speaking about the Word of God help us to live out the Word of God?

DAY
4

Today's Scripture:
Colossians 3:16

The Word

I am not musically inclined. To clap on beat, I have to watch others to know when to clap. Musical people enjoy sitting near me and purposely clapping off beat to mess me up. Yet, as tone deaf as I am, I have a calling from God to worship Him. This same calling has been given to you.

Colossians 3:16b

...and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Verse 16: Music is a gift from God. Every culture throughout the world enjoys music. Even in remote tribes, the villagers have created their own type of instruments in order to create music. The Lord takes pleasure from our songs. He loves His people singing His praises!

Praise is not a matter of music. If it was, then I would be in great trouble! Praise is a matter of the heart. To help explain “praise” read the definition from Nelson’s Illustrated Dictionary:

An act of worship or acknowledgment by which the virtues or deed of another are recognized and extolled...The praise of man toward God is the means by which we express our joy to the Lord. We are to praise God both for who He is and for what He does...Praising God for who He is is called adoration; praising Him for what He does is known as thanksgiving.

Look back at Colossians 3:16. We are to sing with thanksgiving in our hearts. One source of praise is gratitude. Our songs, our hymns, and our prayers need to be constantly thanking God for all He has done on our behalf. This is the focus of our hearts. Our hearts are the seat of our emotions. Our emotions are usually dictated by our circumstances. We are in a grumpy mood because we have had a bad day. We are happy because we have had something good happen. Our feelings constantly change. If we praised God only when we “felt like it” He would receive very little praise. Instead, our praise should be derived from all we have to be thankful for. On good days, we praise Him for the good situations He has allowed in our lives. On difficult days, we praise Him for being near us, for helping us, for being our guide through trials. We thank Him for what He does, not based upon what we feel. We must train our hearts to praise God in all situations, for no matter what we are going through, God is God and He is worthy of praise.

Up Close and Personal

Praise God for who He is and what He has done in your life!

What is the purpose of praising God?

What keeps us from praising God on a daily basis?

DAY 5

Today's Scripture: Colossians 3:17

The Word

Your life has value. Every minute of your life is a gift. It is a gift to you from God and now you have the chance to give a gift back to Him. Each moment that you live for the glory of God is a way of saying “thank you” to the Lord for life.

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷And 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.

Verse 17: I am overwhelmed by this verse every time I read it. I am overwhelmed because my life does not measure up. I can think through this day and realize that many seconds, minutes, and even hours were wasted. Words were spoken and actions were committed that were not done in the name of the Lord Jesus. The words and actions were not “sin” per se but they were a waste. They were a waste of what could have been moments when I could have showed my gratitude to the Lord.

To do everything in the Name of the Lord does not mean that I sit all day in prayer and Bible study. Do not feel guilty that you have chores to do, errands to run, work to finish, children to take places, and whatever else is on your “to do” list. These are your duties and part of what God has called you to do. However, the way we do these daily tasks are either ordinary or extraordinary.

1 Peter 4:11

¹¹If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Verse 11: To do everything in the Name of Jesus is to recognize that our lives are not our own. Our words are not careless tokens to be thrown about. But our voice is a gift from God to be used to honor Him and others. Our actions throughout the day are not completed because we are amazing people. Instead, from the moment you get out of bed, you are dependent on God. It is only by His strength and power that you are able to do anything at all. To live in this humble dependence makes us grateful to the One who gives us so much. It changes our focus from “look at what I did” to “look at what God did through me.”

The key to living to the glory of the Lord is to be thankful. Throughout the day, show your gratitude to God. You can thank Him for health, arriving to your destination safely,

a promotion at work, a paycheck, a rainbow in the sky, friends to eat lunch with, clothes to wear, or anything and everything that comes your way.

We studied thanksgiving on day two of this week. I will not repeat it now. But please realize that this spiritual discipline can transform mundane minutes of the day into heavenly glory. Thanksgiving gives eternal meaning to the daily routines. A time of grocery shopping can be spent thanking the One who provides for all your needs.

Driving can become a divine communion with your Guide. Waiting in lines is a marvelous time to recount to God all of your blessings.

Redeem your minutes with matters of eternity. Do not waste another second. Begin to live each moment toward God. Every word and every action can become a place of communion with your Lord and King.

Up Close and Personal

Ask God to help you to learn how to live each moment for Him.

When do you feel like your words and actions are committed to the Name of the Lord Jesus?

How will you redeem those moments in your life which you feel like are a waste of time?

Name some creative way to remind yourself to live each moment for the Lord.

How can thanksgiving become a part of your daily routine?