

“Our Lord’s Recipe for His Church”

New Hope Community Church

October 21st, 2018

Colossians 3:14,15

Life Group Meeting

Colossians 3:14,15

QUESTIONS

A. The Supremacy of Love (14)

1. Paul distinguishes love **above** the other preceding qualities (14a)
 - Remember love’s **source**
‘Love is from God, & everyone who loves is born of God & knows God’
 - Submit my **will** to the power of the Source within me
‘The fruit of the Spirit is love’ (Ga 5:22)
 - Refuse to wait for my **feelings** to catch up to God’s commands (Colossians 3:1-3)
 - Love is the prize jewel that is continually produced in a life that is **enthusiastically** pursuing Jesus (2 Peter 1:5-7)
2. Paul describes love as that which binds us together in **maturity** (14b)
 - This mature love **expresses** itself in many wonderful ways. It —
 - (1) Places people on an **equal** par with myself (Mk 10:41)
 - (2) **Serves** others as Jesus did (Jn 13:35)
 - (3) Governs the use of spiritual **gifts** one to another (1 C 12:31)
 - (4) **Covers** a multitude of sins (1 Pt 4:8)
 - (5) Never **fails** (1 C 13:5-8)
 - This mature love is the **ligament** that connects His Body (Co 2:19)

B. The Arbiter of Peace (15)

1. Inner peace is not achieved but rather **received**
‘Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful’ (Jn 14:27)
2. This peace we receive is to continually act as the **umpire** (15a)
‘Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus’ (Phil 4:6,7)
 - Peace is not dependent upon my prayer being **answered**
 - When I pray, peace is God’s **first** response
3. Out of His kindness, Jesus has **invited** us into this peace (15b)
 - His Church is to be a refuge in which we **experience** His peace
‘Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace’ (Eph 5:3)
 - To refuse peace is to invite **turmoil** into the Church Jesus loves

C. The Ingredient of Thankfulness

- Literally, the command is to express gratitude for God’s **grace**
- Thankfulness empowers our hearts to keep a **right** perspective
‘Since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show thankfulness, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe’ (Hb 12:28)

1. Read Colossians 3:1-4 / 14,15
2. Say together from memory Col. 3:1-3
3. Why is love placed by Paul as the highest of all virtues?
4. How do you truly love someone whom you do not ‘feel’ like loving?
5. Read together II Peter 1:5-7. In light of the process that is described that leads to love, how important is the concept of ‘enthusiasm’ or ‘diligence’ when it comes to being people who love each other well?
6. As you consider the ways that mature love expresses itself to others (see A.2.▪), which of these expressions have you experienced in the church and has made a difference in your life?
7. How successful have you been in receiving God’s peace as the first answer to your prayer (see B.2.▪), even before the full answer is received? Could you share a testimony of this?
8. Relationships in the Church are to be bonded together by peace (Eph 5:3), even when there is disagreement or hurt. Why is this essential, and how is this possible?
9. Read together and discuss Hebrews 12:28 (at bottom of notes). What do you take away from this verse about thankfulness?
10. Do you have something God is placing on your heart to share at our Celebration of Thanksgiving on November 16th?