

The Supremacy of Christ
05/06/2023 (Week 14) Colossians 3:15-17
Living Your Best New Life in Christ

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

Introduction & Review

- Turn in your Bibles to **Colossians Chapter 3**.
- Today, we'll be looking at **verses 15-17 where Paul writes...**

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:15-17)

- As we've talked about, these practical instructions, along with the others found in the **second half of Colossians**, are based on the **theological truths** of the first half.
- Truths which included both **Christ's Supremacy in all things**
- and the believer's **new life in Christ**.
- And based on these truths, Paul gives us a series of **instructions** so that we might **experience fullness in our new life**.
- By God's grace through faith we've been saved.
- We've died to our old self and been raised to new life in Christ.
- But to experience that new life we must follow **the commands given to us in the word of God**.
- And in the **three verses** we'll look at today Paul gives us **three new life commands**.
- Now as independent, Americans, when we hear that word **command**, we tend to experience at least a little **internal rebellion**.
- Nobody's going to tell me what to do.
- But we must trust that these commands from God are for our good.
- They come to us who are His children.
- Those who Christ died for and who've received God's mercy grace and love.
- Therefore, obeying these commands is the best thing for us.
- Recently I've seen articles, books, internet ads, about **Living Your Best Life**.
- Now I don't know exactly what that statement **means to others**.
- But I want us to understand that it's by **obeying the commands of God**,
- Three of which we will look at today, that you and I can and will **Live our Best New Life in Christ**.

- So, as we look at these commands, **rid yourself of all rebellion**,
- and open your hearts to what God has for you when you trust him and obey his commands.
- And the first command we're given is...

1. Submit to the Peace of Christ

- Verse 15

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)

- There are actually **two instructions** in this verse,
- The second is **to be thankful**.
- And we're going to look at **being thankful** along with our final point **since** Paul addresses it in all three commands, in verses (15, 16 and 17)
- **But now** we'll focus on Paul's **first instruction**, **let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**.
- And to obey this command, we need to understand **what is the peace of Christ?**
- Now there are at least three aspects to this peace.
- The first being the most crucial and foundational...

A. Peace with God

- We see this in Romans 5:1, where Paul writes...

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

- The peace of Christ is peace he provides between God and those who've been justified by faith.
- Those who, by God's grace, have had their sins forgiven and been declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Put simply those who are saved have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- You see, before you or I were **justified by faith**, (saved) We were **not at peace with God**.
- In fact, the Bible says we were **God's enemies**...
- In **verse 10** of **Romans 5** Paul writes...

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son... (Romans 5:10)

- That word **reconciled** means to return to favor with,
- To be brought back into relationship with.
- Because of our sin and rebellion against God, our relationship with Him was broken,
- We were his enemies.
- But by the death of his Son, we were reconciled (returned to favor with God).
- **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- We who God has justified are now able to enter into His Holy presence.
- **So Peace with God is the first and most important aspect of the Peace of Christ.**
- And the second which flows from the first is...

B. Peace Within Yourself

- Christ not only ends our hostilities with God,
- But he gives us the gift of **internal peace**.
- In the hours before he died, **Jesus** said to his disciples,

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

- To those who trust in him, Jesus gives us his own personal peace. ***My peace I give to you.***
- Peace that is not of this world, peace that calms our troubled hearts and removes our fears.
- The Greek word for **peace** both in **Colossians**, **Romans** and **John** (same word) means **a state rest or tranquility**.
- The idea is the **tranquil peaceful state** of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ.
- But it's even more —it's the presence of Christ in your life.
- ***The peace of Christ comes with the presence of Christ.***
- **Have you experienced that kind of peace?**
- That tranquility of the soul, that presence of Christ that brings assurance of salvation.
- Peace that removes anxiety and fear?
- I can still remember my **first experience of this peace**.
- It was **1975/76**, and I was just **13 years old**,
- I'd recently seen and experienced the conversion and transformation of my parents.
- And they'd taken me to church, **Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa**,
- where I saw the Movie, "**A Thief in the Night**".
- This is, to my knowledge, the first of the **Rapture** movies.
- Where all the believers disappear from earth,
- and all others are left behind to experience **Hell on Earth**.
- And I will tell you this, after seeing the movie, **I had no peace**.
- **I was in fact filled with anxiety and fear**.
- That night we stayed at my Grandparents house.
- I was "sleeping" on the living room floor and my dad was sleeping on the couch.
- And I can't tell you how many times I woke up to make sure he had not disappeared.
- You see I was certain that he was saved. But I was not sure about myself.
- Oh, I prayed to receive Christ over and over again, but there was something missing.
- I had no **tranquility**, no rest in my soul, **no assurance of salvation through Christ**.
- Because to be perfectly honest, I just wanted **Christ**, because I didn't want to be **left behind**.

- It wasn't until several months later when I was at church again,
- This time **Calvary Chapel Riverside**.
- Where **Pastor Greg Laurie** introduced me to **Luke 11:23** where Jesus said...

Whoever is not with me is against me... (Luke 11:23)

- And when I heard those words, even though I never would have thought I was against Jesus.
- I would never have considered myself an enemy of God...
- I knew that I wasn't with him, that I wasn't his ally, **he wasn't my LORD**.
- So that morning sitting in a **church pew**, I surrendered my life to him as **Lord and Savior**.
- And it was then that I got a taste of **the Peace of Christ**.
- I understood that now there was **peace between me and God**
- And that resulted in a ***tranquil peaceful state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ***.
- Now my story is not unique, all who've put their faith in Christ have a similar story.
- A time when they first experienced **the peace of Christ** in their life.
- And I am sure that the **Colossians** also had their stories as well.
- How they came to Christ
- How they experienced peace with God through Jesus Christ.
- And how Christ gave them peace in their souls.
- And yet, to the Colossians, **and to us** Paul says...

let that peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

- Well, this certainly implies that even after we've tasted that initial peace that Christ gives,
- We must **purpose** to **Let it rule in our hearts**.
- So, what does it mean to let the peace Christ rule in your heart?
- Well, that word "**rule**" means to **arbitrate**, to **govern**.
- About this word, in his commentary on **Colossians**,
- New Testament Bible Scholar **F. F. Bruce** says...

In many extra-Biblical sources, the Greek word [rule] used here referred to the function of one who took it on himself to decide what is right in a contest. The sense here is, "Let the peace of Christ be umpire in your heart amidst the conflicts of life. Let it decide what is right. Let it be your counselor." (F. F. Bruce)

- So, the idea is not only do you experience the peace, the tranquility of Christ in our hearts,
- **But do you submit to that peace.**
- Do you lean into the peace of Christ allowing it to decide what you do in any given situation?
- As you experience hardship, difficulty, conflict, do you trust in Christ,
- Do you trust in the Sovereignty of God,

- Do you trust, **the promise of Romans 8:28...**

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

- Because it's when we trust that God is at work for our good even in times of pain, suffering, hardship, conflict, **that we experience the peace of Christ.**
- And when, in the midst of our troubles, we

let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,

- We need not be ruled by **anxiety and fear,**
- **Instead, we can be ruled by and** act based on our trust in Christ,
- our assurance of his presence in our lives.
- Our assurance that he is at work even in our trials and difficulties.
- We see this pictured for us in **Acts chapter 7,**
- This is the story of Stephen, the first Christian Martyr.
- Because of his testimony for Christ, Stephen experienced great conflict with the Jewish Religious Leaders.
- They arrested him and questioned him,
- and Stephen filled with faith and peace responded with a brilliant discourse on the history of the Jewish people.
- Including how they continually rejected the Law and the Prophets.
- This did not make the Jewish religious leaders happy.
- And when Stephen went on to tell them that he was at that moment seeing heaven.
- He was seeing God's Glory and Jesus (who they rejected) standing at the right hand of God.
- They took him and cast him out of the city and stoned him.
- And in **verse 59 of Acts 7** we read...

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:59-60)

- As Stephen faced death, he was not troubled or fearful,
- instead, the peace of Christ ruled in his heart,
- and he was empowered to forgive those who killed him.
- So Paul has told us, that like Stephen, we are to...

15 ...let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

- When we experience difficulty, hardship, attacks, insults, conflict, we are to submit not to our earthly desires to worry, to fear, to lash out, but we are to submit to the peace of Christ.
- That supernatural peace that comes from his presence in our lives.

- And then Paul adds a third kind of peace that Christ provides...
- This peace flows both from our peace with God and our Peace within Ourselves,
- That is...

C. Peace Within the Body

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body... (Colossians 3:15)

- This peace of Christ which we are to allow to rule in our hearts is what we are called to experience in one body.
- Which means, God called us as his children to live in peace with one another.
- There is to be a shared tranquility in the body of Christ.
- This same idea is captured and commanded in **Romans 12...**

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:16-18)

- As the Body of Christ, when we allow the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts.
- Then we will seek peace, whenever possible, with one another, and all.
- Peace should govern all our relationships.
- How much misery in our relationships would we avoid if we permitted "the peace of Christ" to umpire in our hearts.
- How many thoughtless words or actions we **escape** if his peace was the **ruler** in our lives.
- How many sleepless nights we would **forego** if we **submitted to the peace of Christ**.
- So, if you desire to **live your best new life in Christ**,
- first, let his peace rule in your hearts, **Submit to the Peace of Christ**.
- And then second, **Paul writes...**

2. Internalize the Word of Christ

- **Verse 16**

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

- Now there is some discussion about what **"the word of Christ"** refers to.
- Because when Paul wrote Colossians, what we call the New Testament had not been assembled and some had not even been written.

- So, for the Colossian believers, the ESV Study Bible says,

The word of Christ probably referred to the teaching about Christ as well as the words of Christ himself, which were part of the oral traditions passed on to believers in the early years after Christ ascended to heaven, before the Gospels had been widely distributed. (ESV Study Bible)

- Now for us, who have the **New Testament**, which includes the words of Christ, the teachings of Christ, and the writings of the Apostle about Christ.
- Certainly, the word of Christ includes all the New Testament.
- I would also include the **Old Testament Scripture** in the **word of Christ**...
- Because, among other things, after his resurrection, before his ascension, while on the Road to Emmaus speaking to two of his disciples, Jesus said...

44 ... “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:44-47)

- So, for us, we **can equate the word of Christ** with the **Entire Bible** which focuses on Christ.
- And with that understanding how do we...

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,

- Well, if the word is going to dwell in you and me richly...
- If it's going to take up residence in our lives and be a rich abundant part of who we are.
- **If we are going to internalize the word of Christ.**
- Then it should come as no surprise, but we must begin by reading it.
- God in his grace and mercy has given us the amazing gift of his word,
- Not as a paperweight or something to decorate our bookshelves.
- He's given it to us to read, to believe, to apply. (**Great News, TV Writers Strick more time to read the Bible...**)
- Now some might think that the Bible is too difficult to understand.
- But the Bible itself testifies to its **understandability**...
- **To Timothy Paul writes...**

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16)

- Scripture is breathed out, inspired by God, it is the word of God, the word of Christ.
- And it is profitable in many ways, which means it is understandable.

- Now, we should acknowledge that it is ultimately only understandable to those who have been given the **Spirit of God**.
- In **John 16:13**, Jesus promises...

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth... (John 16:13)

- So, for those who have the Spirit of God, the truth of God's word will not be difficult to understand.
- Now admittedly there are some **very difficult passages**.
- If you were with us for the second half of Daniel, you know that to be true.
- But I think, Mark Twain put it in perspective when he said,

Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture which they cannot understand; but as for me, I have always noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those which I do understand. (Mark Twain)

- In a backhanded way, Twain is saying that instead of focusing on the few passages that are difficult to understand,
- We should focus on the many passages that are easy to understand but might be difficult for us to apply.
- The vast majority of Biblical teaching is understandable.
- Especially in our day when we have so many resources to help us, study bibles, commentaries, apps where you can highlight a word and it gives you the Greek or Hebrew translation.
- **So, bottom line**, for those who are in Christ, who have the Spirit of God, the Bible is understandable, and we need to read it.
- We need to allow God's word to speak into our lives, to comfort us when needed,
- to convict us when needed, to teach, reprove correct and train.
- **However**, reading alone probably won't result in the **Word of Christ "dwelling" in us "richly."**
- As Paul wrote to Timothy...

15 Do your best (or study, labor) to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

- Paul is saying, and it has been my experience, that when we take time to labor over,
- to study the word of God, that is when it is internalized, it dwells in us richly.
- I certainly experience this as I prepare a message for each Sunday, as I study, labor over the text it becomes internalized, I begin to think about it, and apply it to my life.
- So, we all should all be preparing sermons, or at least spending time studying like we were going to have to communicate what we find.

- Because, among other things, there is great joy in internalizing the word of God,
- As the prophet Jeremiah states...

16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, (Jeremiah 15:16)

- The word of God, the word of Christ is worthy of eating, taking in, meditating, memorizing.
- **And never forget, obeying.**
- The word is not to be studied as an academic exercise, but as the revelation of God.
- The revelation of who he is, what he has and will do.
- And what he desires for those who trust in him.
- The word of God is meant to guide and direct your life.
- You know the word of Christ is richly dwelling in you when experience great joy from obeying it.
- Now Paul goes on to tell us that flowing from that word of richly dwelling in our hearts, ***is ministry to one another.***
- You see, as we saw with the peace of Christ, experiencing life in Christ is not a solo venture.
- If you are trying to **live an isolated life in Christ**, you missing out on a great deal,
- In fact, I would say, you're not living a life in Christ if you are not participating in the body of Christ.
- This is the point Paul is making in the rest of **verse 16**,

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

- This speaks of how the word of Christ richly dwelling in you results in ministry to one another,
- Teaching one another from the word of Christ that dwells richly in us.
- Admonishing or correcting one another based on the **wise word of Christ** that dwells richly in us.
- This certainly happens here and in other churches on Sunday morning as Pastors who have internalized the word throughout the week, teach it to their congregations.
- But it is not limited to Sundays,
- It can and should happen in our **small groups.**
- And it can and should happen as we relate **together in genuine relationships.**
- But you might say well, **I don't feel gifted** to teach or admonish,
- and I would say, well, the Bible certainly teaches that there are those that God gifts in these areas,
- But God also wants **all of us to minister** to one another in this way.
- **My guess is**, if you don't feel equipped to teach or admonish,
- even on a **one on one or family level**,
- it's because you haven't put in the **labor** so that the word of Christ richly dwells in you.
- For when that is the case, you cannot help but share with others.

- And there is more ministry to one another.
- Along with teaching and admonishing we are to **sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs** base on the word of Christ that dwells richly in us.
- There isn't necessarily a major distinction between **psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs**.
- Basically, Paul is simply emphasizing the rich variety of Christian Songs that were available even in His day.
- Bottom line we are to be ministering to one another through songs of worship.
- And we certainly do this congregationally on Sunday morning as Liam leads us in worship.
- And we also do this in our small groups.
- But I think are more formal regarding our singing that the early church might have been.
- As I read various commentaries about singing in the early church, it seemed more spontaneous.
- One got up and sang perhaps from a psalm, and another might respond.
- Hymns broke forth in hearty chorus.
- Others sang spontaneously about what God had done.
- There was music in their hearts.
- Now I am not recommending that everyone do a **Solo**, that might not be so good.
- But it seems that Paul is calling for more participation in worship.
- Whether that is on Sunday Morning or other times,
- **Singing Word of Christ based praises to the Lord is crucial in the body of Christ.**
- And you can see this **in church history**.
- The record of Christian awakenings/revivals during the last 2,000 years shows that whenever the Word of God is proclaimed and received with great joy,
- This joy is inevitably expressed in song.
- One recent example of this was in the **late 1960s and 1970s...**
- If you've seen the **Jesus Revolution** or if you are old enough to remember.
- That spiritual revival in the church, brought a revival of Scripture Singing.
- A massive amount of **new Bible Based, Gospel Centered Songs were Produced.**
- For example,
- Father, I adore you,
- Behold what manner of Love
- I Love you Lord
- Seek Ye First and on and on...
- Beloved Let us Love one another...
- **Micah 6:8**, He hath shown you Oh Man...

- And I could go on and on
- As a new Christian in the 1970s, I sang those scripture songs,
- And they were one way God helped the word of Christ to dwell richly in my heart.
- So, when you internalize the Word of Christ through reading, study, meditation memorization,
- God will inevitably use you to minister to others through teaching, admonition, and song.
- And then finally, as a sort of a summary of everything that has gone before...
- Paul instructs...

3. Engage in Everything for Christ

- Verse 17...

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

- Well, that seems to cover it.
- I looked up the word everything in the Greek
- and I know this joke is getting old, but it means **every thing**.
- Every word, every deed, everything in life.
- "**Deeds**" can be preaching, teaching, singing, eating, exercising, driving, cleaning house, shopping, visiting, working, reading, playing or watching sports, even watching TV —everything!
- And our **words** are everything that passes our lips,
- So everything we say or do is to be done **"in the name of the Lord Jesus."**
- Notice that instead of saying in the name of Christ, Paul says in the name of the **Lord Jesus**.
- He has already used **Christ** twice and so I think he wants to get all of **Jesus Name** out there.
- Because, in Scripture **the name** is not just what you call someone it is a description of who they are.
- **Christ** is from the Hebrew **Messiah** and means the **Anointed One**.
- **Jesus** comes from the Hebrew **Yeshua** or Joshua which means, **Jehovah is Salvation**.
- And **Lord** means master, **ruler, supreme authority**.
- So, the name of Jesus is the promised messiah, the anointed savior and ruler of all.
- ***So, what does mean what does it look like to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.***
- Well, some understand it to mean that everything a Christian does is to be undertaken in dependence on the Lord.
- No matter what I do or say I must depend on the Lord Jesus Christ to provide me with the strength and power I need.

- Others think it means that everything a Christian does is to be done **in recognition of the authority of Jesus' name**.
- No matter what I do or say, I do it based on the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Still others take "in the name of the Lord Jesus" to mean "as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ".
- No matter what I do or say I am acting as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Now I would say, it's all of the above.
- No matter what I do or say I must depend on Christ, I must recognize the authority of Christ and I must represent Christ.
- **We must do Everything for Christ**
- We need to understand just how big this is!
- We tend to divide our lives between the **sacred and the secular**.
- Okay, I'm going to church, or bible study, or spending time in prayer, **this is God's time**.
- This is when I say and do things in the **name of the LORD**.
- But at all other times (driving, eating, exercising), God really isn't involved.
- But Paul is saying there is no division between **the sacred and the secular**.
- Everything you do is done in dependance on Christ.
- Everything you do is done under the authority of Christ.
- Everything you do is done as you represent Christ in this world.
- Now one thing that helps me with this constantly reminding myself that no matter where I go,
- no matter what I say or what I am doing,
- The Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God is there with me.
- Remember Jesus final words of the Great Commission recorded in Matthew...
- To His disciples he said...

²⁰ ...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

- We need to let this promise give us **the peace of Christ** that rules in our hearts.
- We need to let **this word of Christ** richly dwell in us.
- And we need to **allow this promise to influence everything we do and say in the name of the Lord Jesus**.
- I would even suggest that you take some time this week to consider, meditate on the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is always with you and that his words instruct you to do everything in his name.
- Consider what changes do you need to make in your life based on these truths!
- **Because Living your Best New Life in Christ** comes as we tear down that division between the sacred and the secular,
- recognizing that in Christ all things are **sacred** and therefore all things are to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- And one thing that Paul highlights that we must do in the name of the Lord Jesus, is be thankful.
- Each of these three commands we've looked at ends with an exhortation of thanksgiving.
- **Verse 15**, submit to the peace of Christ...

15 ... And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)

- **Verse 16**, Internalize the word of Christ, teaching, admonishing and singing

16 ...with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

- **Verse 17**, Do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus...

17 ...giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

- I'm not really sure but I think Paul is trying to tell us something.
- Apparently, we are (in everything we say and do) **to be a thankful people**.
- The most direct of these **exhortations** to thankfulness is in verse 15, "**And be thankful.**"
- Literally it says, "**become thankful**," because we are to keep on striving for a deeper gratitude than we have yet attained.
- Life in Christ (everything we do and say) is to be filled with thanksgiving.
- And even in the most difficult times, we can be thankful because of Christ.
- I think that's what Paul is saying, as the peace of Christ rules in our lives be thankful to God for the peace of Christ.
- As the word of God dwells richly in you, be thankful to God for the word of Christ.
- And as you do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus give thanks to God that it is through Christ that you can do these things.
- So are you thankful for the peace, the word, the presence of Christ in your life,
- and does your life (your words and deeds) show it!
- **Now coincidentally (or not)...**
- The word for "**thankful**" in the Greek is word **eucharesteo**, **U-Car-res-Taw**
- from which we get the English word **Eucharist**,
- Which happens to be another word for the **Lord's Supper**
- The Lord's supper, communion is a time of remembrance, celebration, **and thanksgiving**.
- Remembering, celebrating, and thanking Christ for who he is and what he has done for us.
- So as the ushers and worship team come forward,
- I want us to take a moment to prepare our hearts for the Lord's supper.
- I'm going to give you a few minutes of silent prayer.
- A time between you and God, where you can go to him,
- A time where you can confess any known sin.
- And a time where you can personally thank him for all he has done in your life through Jesus Christ.

- So, take a moment for silent confession and thanksgiving, preparing your heart to receive from the Lord.

- **SILENT PRAYER**

- In just a moment the ushers will distribute the bread and the cup,
- and I want to remind everyone that this is the Lord's Supper,
- all who trust in Christ, no matter if Bridges is your home church or not, are welcome to participate.
- However, if you are here today, and have yet to trust in the Lord,
- we are certainly glad you came but I would ask that you let the bread and cup pass you by.
- For what we are doing is celebrating, remembering, and thanking the LORD Jesus for what he has done in our lives, for his sacrificial death in our place,
- For the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation (Peace with God) that he provides to those who trust in him.
- Okay...
- Liam is going to lead us in a **Psalm, Hymn, Spiritual Song** as the Ushers distribute the bread and cup.

- **SONG**

- In 1 Corinthians 11... Paul writes...

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

- Lord, we thank you for your body which you gave as a sacrifice for us.
- Let us partake together...

²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:25-26)

- Lord, we thank you for the cup that is the new covenant in your blood.
- Blood which you shed as you died on the cross for our sins,
- Lord, we proclaim your death as the only way to bring peace between God and Man.
- Let us partake of the cup together...

- **Prayer,**
- **Dismissal.**