

Bound by Love - Ruled by Peace

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Colossians 3:14-15

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Truth: To win the battle against sin and live victoriously

You must live in light of your new identity of Christ! 2 Tim 1:9

Biblical Love must be a priority in the body of Christ

- **Biblical love (agape) defined**
Beware of the world's false definitions - "love has no labels"; "just love all:
Biblically: 1 Jn 3:16; Lk 6:35; Rom 12:9; 1 Cor 13:4-8; 1 Jn 4:18-19
"Biblical love is wanting the absolute Biblical best
for the object of your love regardless of the cost to you."
- **Love commanded because love requires commitment**
- Love is the 'binder' that ties all these virtues together!
- All the "put-ons" require "love" to be properly exercised!
- **Love is not optional, but a defining action**
- Love fulfills the law - Rom 13:8-10
- Love summarizes the law - Jesus Mt 22:37-40
- **Love should define Christ's church**
- Love must come out of those saved by God's love 1 Jn 4:7-12
- Love is the primary way people will know us as Christians Jn 13:34-35

Biblical Peace must define us

- 1st you must have the peace of Christ in your heart
Believers only – if not a believer there can be NO peace! Rom 5:1,10
- **Peace of Christ must affect our relationships**
- Objective peace – Rom 14:17
- Peace w/ Christ means peace w/ others - Eph 2:14; Gal 6:16
- **That peace is an act of the will**
- We are commanded to let Peace of Christ RULE Col 3:15
- Remember we are all part of ONE body in Christ 1 Cor 12:21-26
- **We have that peace because we were called into Christ's Body by God**
- God called you into His Body - Col 3:12; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Rm 8:29-30; Eph 1:3-14
- We don't get to "pick" our church - God places you there for a reason – usually your sanctification

Discuss & Apply:

- What are ways the world misuses or applies "love"?
- Katy Perry "just united and love one another" as solution to terrorist bombing. What is wrong with her use of the word love? Why is her love nothing more than just a 'vague feeling of pleasant indifference towards all humanity'? How does God's love help?
- Read 1 Jn 3:16; Lk 6:35; Rom 12:9; 1 Cor 13:4-8; 1 Jn 4:18-19. What is your best definition for Biblical love?
- How is love the girdle that keeps all the virtues in place? What happens if we exercise the virtues without love? 1 Cor 13:1.
- Describe how love is a defining action for believers? Is that the same as overlooking or ignoring sin (God loves unconditionally and He will forgive)? How does the cross and the truth of the Gospel enter into this discussion?
- How should love be apparent in Christ's church? 1 Jn 4:7-12; Jn 13:34-35. What are we doing right at OCC? What must we improve at OCC?
- Can you tell someone in less than a minute how they can have peace with God through Christ Jesus? Do you have that peace? Is it evident?
- How should our peace with God affect our relationships? Eph 2:4; Gal 6:16
- Why is letting peace rule an act of the will? Upon what fact is our peace based?
- How does the Body analogy help us not attack another part of our body and have peace? 1 Cor 12:21-26.
- Do you view your placement in this body as God's sovereign hand or your choice? Col 3:12; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:3-14
- What is the danger of viewing our local church as our choice?
- Apply V14-15 to our drawing:

