

Rules of Engagement

Part 4

September 9, 2018

Scripture Text: 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 message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 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.”*

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

Paul realizes even though we have been given peace as a result of our belief and relationship with Christ. John 14:27 NKJV *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.* We have to allow God’s peace to preside within. One or the other has to have dominion the peace of God or the peace of the world. It’s about living every day in confidence rather than living every day in fear and uncertainty. We are children of Peace! Jesus made it clear in Matthew 5:9 NIV *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God.”* The peace of God will override any fear and intimidation by evil forces. Philippians 4:7 NIV *“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* We have a sure word from the Book of Isaiah 26:3 *“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”* We must not allow the winds of adversity to overwhelm us and take our focus off of the Prize! If you have Jesus you have gained the prize. I John 5:12 *“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”* The bottom-line is that people want to live life on their own terms and then at the end of their days go to the Heaven. I don’t believe any of us will go to Heaven without obtaining the Prize. Philippians 3:14-21 NKJV **VERSE 14** *“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* Read the remaining verses to get a fuller understanding!

If we know these things, we are most thankful to God for His faithfulness and we freely give Him our praise with the fruit of our lips.

VERSE 16 *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.* Many times, we are so quick to tell people about our news and our opinions. “Let me tell you what happened to me the other day!” “Did you hear about....?” You can fill in the blanks. We tell our story without reservation. Why is that? Can it be because it’s easy for us to share those things near and dear to our hearts? The bible says, Proverbs 4:23 NKJV *“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”* Luke 6:45 NKJV *“The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the*

abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.” Here is a good way to examine your heart: Take note of how many times you thank God and how many times you complain. It is a quick way to expose where your heart is.

8Let’s not allow the world to squeeze us into it’s mold by filling our hearts with its untruths and fears! It is believers that have access to the wisdom that comes from above. For we have a song to sing and a grateful heart for the things that God has done...is doing and is going to do!

The greatest message that we have to share with the world is *Jesus died and was buried for our sins, rose from the grave for our victory and He is coming back to receive us!*

VERSE 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.”*

As long as we live on this planet there will always be something to do that will involve other people. There are many reasons that people do things for others. Some people do things for acceptance, political and financial gain. There are the exceptions who do things out of humility, compassion, love and a grateful heart because of what the Lord has done for them.

These individuals seldom complain about the task that they are involved in, because their focus is not the task but to whom they are doing it for. Colossians 3:23-24 NKJV *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”*

If we are engaged in any aspect of ministry, after it is completed we should always say, Thank You Lord!

I Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* Why in everything? This is deep! We give thanks because it is the will of God in Christ for you and me. It doesn’t matter if it is pleasant or unpleasant whether you agree or disagree. When God is in it, it’s all good! You get blessed and He gets the Glory! Paul said it like this, in Romans 8:28 NKJV *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* He could surely say that because he had seen some dark days according to II Corinthians 11:23-27 NKJV. 23 *He received labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness....* just to name a few!

If anyone could say *that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* It was Paul because all of his sufferings led many souls to Christ! Praise the Lord somebody!

APPLICATIONS:

You don’t have to pray for what you already have but you do have to say, “Thank You!”

As a Christian always keep in mind, “What you do for others you do for Christ.”

