

Hearts Overflow from Whatever Fills Them
Colossians 3:12-17

- I. As image bearers of Christ, we are to be like Jesus to one another.
- A. Paul called us to rid ourselves of our old ways.
 - 1. Replace the old ways with Jesus' way.
 - (a) But it is not so simple as tap water.
 - (b) We don't just turn off cold and turn on hot.
 - 2. What comes out of us comes from what's stored inside.
 - (a) Jesus said evil coming out of our hearts defiles us.
 - (b) But where does that evil come from? (Matthew 12:34-35)
 - 3. Evil comes from a fallen heart and the evil stored up in it.
 - (a) From a self-centered orientation.
 - (b) From the corrupting input and influence of a fallen world.
 - 4. So, what comes out of your heart is overflow of what's in it.
 - (a) If you want good to come out, first good must go in.
 - B. When we trust in Christ, we are made new in spirit.
 - 1. We receive a new nature and a new identity.
 - (a) We are "chosen, holy, dearly loved" by God!
 - (b) This is our new reality. This is who we are.
 - 2. Chosen people
 - (a) You thought you were choosing Christ.
 - (b) But long before that, he chose you (Ephesians 1:4-5).
 - (c) Out of all the people in history you are a chosen one.
 - 3. Holy: God sees you as holy.
 - (a) Not because you have achieved holiness.
 - (b) Because the righteousness of Christ is credited to you!
 - 4. Dearly loved: God cherishes you! You are dear to him!
 - 5. These are the truths of the gospel.
 - (a) We need to see them every day!
 - (b) As we see and believe them, they go deeper into our hearts, into our character (nail illustration).
 - C. We love because he first loved us.
 - 1. The only way we can love like Christ is if we have been loved by Christ (not just knowing about it but experiencing it).
 - (a) Our love must be the overflow from a full heart.
 - (b) That is why we must see the gospel every day!
 - 2. Example: "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
 - (a) To do this we must remember how Jesus forgave us.
 - (b) Then we must obey. We must choose to forgive.
 - (c) Remember, he commands us to forgive. This is not optional.

- II. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts..."
- A. Peace: from a root word that means "to join."
 - 1. "To set as one again" (reconciliation).
 - (a) Restoring broken relationships.
 - 2. Also speaks of quietness and rest.
 - B. We have been reconciled to God and to one another.
 - 1. We are in a covenant of peace (vertical and horizontal).
 - C. Rule: to rule as an umpire, to arbitrate, to govern.
 - 1. The peace of Christ can rule in our hearts two ways.
 - (a) We need to submit to God's call for us to be at peace.
 - 2. We need to protect this peace between us.
 - (a) We need to treat each other with love and respect.
 - (b) We need to communicate appropriately.
 - (c) We need to forgive and do the "one another's."
 - 3. God sometimes "disturbs the peace" to get our attention.
 - (a) Be careful. It may just be anxiety.
 - (b) If you lack a sense of peace, ask if there is something you need to do (repent, forgive, talk).
- III. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."
- A. God speaks to us, instructs us, leads us, by his word.
 - 1. Jesus said we live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (note the tense of "proceeds").
 - (a) God still speaks by his word.
 - (b) To hear we need to be in the word.
 - 2. It needs to dwell in us richly (once again, overflow).
 - (a) "In us," in our hearts and minds.
 - (b) "Richly"
 - (c) What if God said he wanted food to dwell in you richly?
 - (d) Would you be on a starvation diet? Would you eat twice a week?
 - (e) God fills us and satisfies us by speaking truth to us.
 - B. All of God's people are to be speakers of his word.
 - 1. "Teaching and admonishing (warning) one another."
 - 2. God reveals himself to all of God's people.
 - (a) He calls each and every one of us to speak truth.
 - (b) The Ephesians model.
 - (c) Leaders train. People speak truth. The body matures.
 - 3. Coming this fall, "Speak the Truth in Love" series.
 - C. Be thankful (3x!)
 - 1. A thankful heart appreciates what has been received.