

Colossians 3:16–17

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

*“Living for Him”
Colossians 3:16-17*

INTRO:

We have been following Paul’s instruction to understand how we who have received Christ Jesus the Lord should walk in Him. Paul told us how we must not live in the end of chapter two. Then Paul motivated us by telling how in our union with Christ we died together with Him and were raised together with Him. Because of this we must put to death somethings in our lives, and put off some things in our lives. In their place we must put on the new person created after the image of Christ Jesus. To do that meant adopting some positive values through the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It also meant submitting to the rule of Christ’s peace in our lives. Finally, in our text today we will discover three other things we must do.

I. We Must Let The Word of Christ Dwell in us Richly (v. 16)

II. We Must Sing Properly (v. 16)

III. We Must Do Everything in the Name of Christ (v. 17)

I. We Must Let The Word of Christ Dwell in us Richly (v. 16)

Colossians 3:16 *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

A. As when we studied verse 15, this is a third person imperative. It is a command. We must make sure the Word of Christ dwells in us richly. Two questions we need to answer.

1. First what is the **“Word of Christ?”** This Greek form could mean several different things. It could mean the words that Jesus spoke, or it could mean words that are about Christ. Most likely, these are the word that Christ is the source of and that includes the Gospel. The Gospel here means more than the Romans road or the four spiritual laws. It means the entire truth of the word of God.

2. Second, how does *“the Word dwell in us richly?”* The Bible is to make its house inside of us. We must be continually inundated with the truth of God. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to change us. **Ephesians 6** describes the *“Sword of the Spirit”* which is the word of God.

B. The phrase, *“In all wisdom,”* can refer to *how* the Word of Christ is to dwell in us, or it could refer to how we teach and admonish one another. In my mind it seems to best go with how the word of Christ is to dwell in us, with all kinds of wisdom. To say it in a different way, the Word of Christ is to be the source of everything we see as wisdom. James wrote:

James 3:16–18 *“For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

II. We Must Sing Properly (v. 16)

Colossians 3:16 *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

A. There are three participles here which indicate these are what the Word of Christ taking up permanent residence in our lives produces. It yields psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs in which we teach and admonish, and it produces singing in our hearts because of the grace we received from the Lord.

B. This text says nothing about style of music, but it says loads about content. What are we teaching and admonishing one another in our music? It is vitally important we sing truth and not error.

C. Then having Christ’s Word housed in us must produce the fruit of thankfulness and a desire to praise God.

III. We Must Do Everything in the Name of Christ (v. 17)

Colossians 3:17 *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

A. This is no small requirement Paul put squarely on our shoulders. Every action we take in each of our lives should be done for Christ, as if we do it in His place and for His glory.

B. Surely Paul can't be serious is he? Let me point out how the Apostle finished his discussion of meats offered to idols in **1 Corinthians 10:31**.

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

We do this because after all He has done for us, how can we do less to give thanks to the Father through Him?