

Be Thankful

Colossians 3:15; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 11-18-18

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body;
and **be thankful**. – Colossians 3:15*

1. We should be thankful.

- It is a command.

Why does God give us commands?

- For our good.
- For His glory.
- Because we don't naturally do what He commands and we naturally do what He tells us not to do!
- It exposes our need for a Savior.
- It shows us what love looks like.

Why are we ungrateful?

- It is the fallen condition. - 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Luke 6:35
 - We have an entitlement mentality. - Luke 17:9; 18:11
- We have nothing we have not received.

What does it mean to be 'thankful'?

- Be full of gratitude rather than ingratitude, complaining and criticism.
- Recognize that you have received something.
- Recognize that you did not deserve it.
- Recognize what it would have been like without it.
- Recognize what it has been like with it.
- Recognize where it came from.

2. We could be thankful.

- If we have a new heart.

- A new heart sees the ingratitude.
- A new heart has new power to be different because it is able to see God and His goodness in every situation.

If we don't have a new heart, we can ask for a new heart!

We aren't simply commanded to give thanks for individual things, but we are commanded to 'be a thankful person'!

3. We would be thankful, if

If we were focused on Christ.

Note the broader context:

- Heavenly mindedness (Colossians 3:1-4)
- Dead man walking (3:5-7)
- New self (new heart) (3:8-11)
- Chosen (holy and beloved) (3:12)
- Gracious (3:12-14)
- Christ-centered (3:15-17)
- Other oriented (husbands, wives, parents, masters) (3:18-25)

If we thought it was important for what we think is important.

- Giving thanks is mentioned 3 times in a few verses!
- These precede the section on our closest and most important relationships.
- Recognize that being thankful is necessary to love your wife, husband, children, parents, and bosses!

If we were willing to work at it!

The problem: We are commanded to 'be thankful' which is like 'be happy' or 'be calm' or 'be excited' or 'be sorry'? Is this reasonable?

It takes divine grace and hard work to fulfill this command! (Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 15:10)