

11.03.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: Peace and Unity

Scripture Reading: [Colossians 3:15-17](#)

Reflection: Rev. George Vink

Writing this devotional was on my agenda for the day, but I wasn't quite sure where to begin. Pastor Doug's "seeds" sounded so lofty, so poetic, and simply, so right. But I needed more.... So, after enjoying my morning toast with Alberta honey, turning to Leviticus 19 and reading Stuart Briscoe's devotional, I had what I needed. Briscoe wrote, "Holiness is essentially practical." Can you hear my saying, George-like, "Amen!" But, you need to know more, don't you? Pastor Stuart continued, "It (Holiness) shows itself in family relationships, in work and rest habits, in neighborliness, and in matters of compassion and justice." Now, it's your turn to say, "Amen!" But that's the easier part. It's the doing....

In Colossians, Paul used the phrase, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...." It cannot be more practical! Words and deeds are the way we express ourselves in family relationships. Do I even say, "I love you!" to my wife, daily? Do I help her make the bed, do the dishes or vacuum? Words and deeds are the way we translate our feelings. Do people at work, my fellow employees or employer, know that I express who I am as a follower of Jesus Christ by my work habits? Have I taken the time to meet my neighbor and learn that he's lonely? Has my compassion gotten expressed with someone, or has my sense of justice stopped me from joining others in their hateful expressions of prejudice or judgment?

Scripture's "And whatever you do..." leaves little leeway. Our being holy, set apart as our baptisms testify, demands a lifestyle of obedience and gratitude. Our "giving thanks to God" speaks of an ongoing, never-ending expressing it. It's what "holy and faithful" brothers and sisters in Christ do. And our doing so leads to the needed peace while rebuilding and expressing our devastated unity. And, if there's anything Christ's Church, including Covenant, desperately needs in a time of bitterness and selfishness, it's peace and unity. Makes me ask, "How practical is my/your/our holiness?"

Prayer:

Dear Lord, as we teach and admonish one another to live lives of holiness, give us a clear understanding of how that applies to me and not so much my neighbor. Help me see myself as you see me, a sinner in need of repentance and wanting to do better. Empower me with your Holy Spirit because my power fails me so quickly. I want to be wholly holy and practical. Amen.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Pray for the courage to say with wisdom what needs to be said and do what you know needs doing as you express your being in relationships with others who need to do the same.

Songs for today:

[Lord, Speak to Me](#)

[Just As I Am](#)