



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Peace with One Another

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THEME Jehovah Shalom

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This week, Ps Jeffrey Aw uses Col 3:15 to share on how we can be at peace with one another despite our differences. We do this by:

- Relating to one another as One Body
- Responding to the Peace of Christ
- Recognising and being thankful for the goodness in each other

HOW CAN WE BE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER?

1) RELATE AS ONE BODY

- We need to understand Jesus' definition of One Body so that we can better relate with one another.
- The early church had their issues and struggles too – there were differences in race (Greeks who were privileged and educated vs Jews), ceremonial standing (circumcised vs uncircumcised, culture (Barbarian vs Scythian who were civilised), social caste (free or in bondage i.e. slaves).
- The above differences are somewhat relevant to us today too. We may work or serve with people of a different race, nationality, culture, educational status, occupation, or even people with special needs.
- However, as how Paul reminded the Church of Colossae that **Christ is all, and in all** (Col 3:11), it is the Lord's desire for us to be as One Body (Col 3:15) – there is no distinction and we should come together and work together for the Kingdom of God to bring God glory despite our differences and preferences.

2) RESPOND TO THE PEACE OF CHRIST

- Our God is a relational God – his ministry of reconciliation is between God and man, and man to man. The peace of Christ is special because it is a new way of living together with one another in Christ (Col 1:21-22) - this is the peace that we can tap on God to help us to relate to one another.

- How can we let the peace of Christ rule (*brabeuo*) our hearts? *Brabeuo* means umpire and when we have this *brabeuo* in our hearts, we have this referee that we can respond to, it is in Christ that we allow the peace of God to act as a referee.
- A good indicator that we are not at peace with someone is when we consistently say things that does not reflect what is truly inside of ourselves. When we choose to forgive and to love others as Jesus has forgiven us and loves us (unconditionally), we trust in His peace and not ours.
- To have peace, we need to respond with the peace of Christ. Having the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts means, even though you don't feel right, but it is important as God's chosen people, we choose to do what is right. One practical way to do so is to put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another, forgiving each other and love (Col 3:12-14).
- Gal 6:9 says that we do not weary in doing good and as we continue to make decisions that are Christlike, we will gain greater peace not because of our own peace but because of the peace that has been bestowed upon us and made available for us.

3) Recognise the goodness in others

- Recognising the goodness of others means we learn to be thankful for one another.
- When we continuously grow in genuine thankfulness, in genuine appreciation of one another, then we will see each other in a more Christ-like manner. When we pursue the posture of being thankful to one another, we become more positive and peaceful.
- Based on this whole passage, there are 2 things to be thankful for:
 - **Jesus:** In Jesus, we have the New Way of living in Him which is Unity (Col 1:21-22). When we depend on His peace and respond to His peace, we relate to one another by how Christ would want us to respond to one another. The highest value in BBTC is unity and we need to work hard to keep unity in the bond of peace that is in Christ.
 - **One Another:** We consider the goodness in others, especially those of them who are very different from us. When we learn to appreciate one another, that's where unity will grow. In 1 Cor 12: 26, Paul says that if one part of the body suffers, all suffer but if one part is honoured, the whole church is honoured.
- As we learn to recognise the goodness of and be thankful for one another, this is the starting point of greater unity, greater peace, greater reconciliation between others and ourselves.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can be at peace with one another when we relate as one body, appreciating diversity in unity. This is the church of Christ - respond to the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ is the umpire/referee to guide us in how we feel, and what we do. We need to recognize the good in others; that will help us to have a greater appreciation of the diversity even in the body of Christ, because this is the One Church, One Body that God has called us together.

QUESTIONS

1. Col 3:15 says that we are called in One Body – what is one key point of the sermon that speaks to you about relating to each other in the Body of Christ?

2. Referencing Col 3:12-14, we can relate to each other with the peace of Christ when we put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another, forgiving each other just as we have been forgiven, and putting on love. Which is one area that God is prompting you to focus on?

3. What are some practical ways in which you can live out this area of focus in 2022? How can your CG members help you and pray for you in this regard?