

How To Know God's Will, Colossians 3:15-17 – August 4th, 2019

- I want to talk about something that's arguably one of the most often asked questions a pastor will receive concerning God's will.
- Namely, that of knowing what the will of God is when one is at the crossroads of a decision. Thankfully our text has the answer.
- What follows is what I like to call a three-pronged approach, or a three-layer template, to knowing what the will of God is for us.

1. The peace of God (Verse 15)

- 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.
- What Paul says is interesting for several reasons, chief of which is the word he uses for letting God's peace rule in our hearts.
 - This because the word "rule" carries with it the idea of an athletic judge or "umpire" if you will, that makes the judgment call.
 - I would submit the Holy Spirit is the umpire that makes the call as to whether something is fair or foul, in or out, right or wrong.

James 3:13–18 - 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 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. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

2. The Word of God (Verse 16)

- 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
- Once we have the peace of God, it must be confirmed by the Word of God, which Paul says needs to dwell richly among us.
 - However, this presupposes that we know the Word of God well enough so as to know what God's Word is concerning His will.
 - So much so, that we're able to speak to others, whether in word or song that which is a "word fitly spoken" for their situation.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

3. The providence of God (Verse 17)

- 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- Once we have the peace of God confirmed by the Word of God, it's the providence of God consistent with the nature of God.
 - By that I mean we go through the doors God has opened as he orchestrates our circumstances and choreographs our steps.
 - However, God will never lead us in a way that contradicts His written Word or is incompatible with the name or nature of God.

Proverbs 3:5–6 - 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.