

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Jesus at the Center, Amazing Grace, J.O.Y.

## WELCOME

**Happy Desire.** Do you believe in your heart that God wants you to be happy?

## WORD

### COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

<sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Everyone wants to be happy and many believe that they can pursue happiness their own way. Money, relationships, fame and power are objects of happiness that may be good but one cannot really have happiness apart from God.

In the Bible, we read that God wants us to be happy (**Deuteronomy 12:12; Philippians 4:4**) and we experience the fullness of joy when we are in the Lord (**Psalms 16:11**). Therefore, to be fully happy, Jesus must be central in our lives. And to live a Christ-centered life, we need the peace of Christ, the Word of Christ and the glory of Christ.

#### THE PEACE OF CHRIST (COLOSSIANS 3:15)

The assurance of our salvation brings us the peace of God through Jesus Christ (**Romans 5:1**). We do not fear Judgment Day because by faith in Christ, we have been justified. More so, the peace that Jesus gives overcomes our fear when we experience troubles and sufferings in this world (**John 14:27; 16:33**).

The command in **Colossians 3:15** to live a Christ-centered life is to let the peace of God rule in our heart. It means letting Jesus be our decision-maker. For example, when God is bothering our heart about something, such as speaking unkind words, hurting someone, or neglecting to appreciate some people, we become restless. Apparently, the peace of God is absent. Choosing to humble ourselves and to follow God in times like these will give us peace that transcends feelings and understanding. A Christ centered life is where the peace of Christ reigns supreme.

#### THE WORD OF CHRIST (COLOSSIANS 3:16)

To live a Christ-centered life is to let the Word of God richly dwell in us. This means that we should read, study and meditate on the Bible every day. The Bible is our guide and compass. It tells us what is right and wrong. It also directs us where to go and not to go. If we do not read and study the Bible every day, how do we expect to be filled with God's wisdom and knowledge in living a Christ-centered life?

The Bible is our guide for teaching, encouraging, admonishing one another and singing psalms and hymns. If we do not have wisdom from the Bible, we will begin to make decisions based on the values and perspectives of this world. When people come to us for counseling, we should lead them to what the Bible says, and not to our own personal opinion.

We must also saturate our mind with the Word of God to filter how we see things. It is what will help us grow spiritually (**1 Peter 2:2**). If we believe the Bible is the Word of God, we will read and study it every day for our nourishment.

To live a Christ-centered life, we are to keep the Word of God as our treasure (**Psalms 119:9, 11**). Keep in mind as well that being filled with the Word is also being filled with the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18-21**).

#### THE GLORY OF CHRIST (COLOSSIANS 3:17)

Whatever we do in word or in deed, whether we eat or drink, we should do it all in the name of Jesus and all for His glory (**1 Corinthians 10:31**). A Christ-centered life is motivated to do everything for Jesus.

## WORD (cont'd)

There are times that we do not want to do what we need to do. It becomes difficult for us to surrender our rights, to submit, or to obey. But because Jesus is central in our life, we will still choose to do what we have to for it is He who compels us to do it for Him.

As followers of Christ, in whatever decision we are to make, the peace of God should be there, it also should be in accordance with the Word of God, and it should bring glory to Him.

We owe it to the world to be happy because the world needs to see us happy. Christians should be the happiest people in the world because we have Christ. Holiness and happiness go together. When Christ is central in our life, the byproduct is happiness.

### **FAMILY FIRST (COLOSSIANS 3:18-21)**

This Biblical truth of a Christ-centered life is tested first and foremost in the family. That is why, the following verses in Colossians 3 command the household members to follow *God's design for the family*: wives to submit to husbands, husbands to love their wives, and children to obey their parents (**Galatians 3:28; 1 Peter 3:1-2, 7, Ephesians 5:25**). The result of following this design is a Christ-centered life with a Christ-centered family. If we apply this truth at home, it will overflow quite naturally to the outside - to our extended families, neighbors, communities, schools, friends, co-workers and others.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

- 1. Peace Rules.** What should rule our heart according to **Colossians 3:15**? Briefly explain why.
- 2. Central.** How can you live a Christ-centered life wherein the peace of Christ, the Word of Christ and the glory of Christ are central in our life?
- 3. Christ-Centered.** In what ways can you practice a Christ-centered life at home? Please be specific.

## WORKS

### **PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION**

Pause for a moment of personal reflection to check your "Happiness Quotient". What makes you happy and what makes you angry is indicative of what is central in your life.

What will you intentionally do to make your "Happiness Quotient" central to Jesus and how can this help you witness for others who do not know Christ?

### **WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS**

#### **I. Thanksgiving**

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### **II. Country and the World**

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### **III. Church**

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### **IV. CCF Facilities**

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### **V. Personal Concerns**

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends