Colossians 3:15-4:1

Outline of 3:15-17

- An imperative is provided in each verse
- Thankfulness is mentioned with each provision from Christ
- Each is focused on an sphere of the Christian experience on earth

3:15 - The Peace of Christ

- 1. Imperative "let rule" a command to let peace from Christ rule in all you Christians hearts
- 2. Thankfulness "and be thankful"
- 3. Sphere of operation in the body, the church, among believers

3:16 - The Word of Christ

- 1. Imperative "let dwell" a command to let the Word of Christ dwell in all you Christians
 - a. In wisdom
 - b. In teaching
 - c. In admonishing
- 2. Thankfulness in grace sing to the God thanksgiving using psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
- 3. Sphere of operation instruction, growth and insight of each of you believers

3:17 - The Name of the Lord Jesus

- 1. Imperative implied is the command to "be thankful" (*kai eucharistoi ginesthe*, "and thankful be") from verse 15
- 2. Thankfulness for all you can say and do "in the name of the Lord Jesus" give thanks to God the Father
- 3. Sphere of operation everything you go out and do in life (spoken or action)

3:15 – "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

15	2532 [e] kai καὶ And Conj	3588 [e] hē Ŋ the Art-NFS	eirēnē εἰρήνη peace	-	Chri Xp	istou ιστοῦ n Christ	1018 [e] brabeuetō βραβευέτω let rule V-PMA-3S	1722 [e en è €V in Prep] 3588 [e] tais ταῖς the Art-DFP	2588 [e kardia καρξ hearts N-DFP	is δίαις	4771 [e] hymōn ὑμῶν , of you PPro-G2P	1519 [e] eis εἰς to Prep
3739 hēn ἡν whi RelF	1	2532 [e] kai καὶ also Conj	2564 [e] eklēthēte ἐκλήθητα you were ca	alled	1722 [e] en ¿v in Prep	1520 [e] heni ἑνὶ one Adj-DNS	sōmati σώματι . body	2532 [e] kai καὶ And Conj	2170 [e] euchariste εὐχάρι thankful Adj-NMP		1096 [e] ginest γίνεα be V-PMM/	he σθε .	

- 1. "the peace of Christ"
 - a. This picks up the concept of the Hebrew term shalom which is wholeness in your person and in relationships. It is more than absence of conflict. It is harmon with God's Reality. You must know Truth for this to occur.

- b. John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do
 I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."
- c. Ephesians 2:14 "For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility"
- d. 2 Thes. 3:16 "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all."
- 2. "rule"
 - a. "rule" or *brabeuo*, means "to act as umpire". It means litterally "to act as arbiter in the games"
 - b. The shalom that comes from Christ is to be the umpire deciding your attitude in the games played among believers.
- 3. The focus on this verse is in the body of believers. For the one body of Christ to function in the temporal world among the redeemed with a fallen nature then peace must be the umpire making the final decisions.

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	3588 [e]	3056 [e]	3588	[e] 5547 [e]	17	774 [e]	1722 [e]	4771 [e]	4146 [e]	1722	2 [e] 3956 [e] 4678 [e]
	Но	logos	tou	Christou	е	noikeitō	en	hymin	plousi	ōs	en	pasē	sophia
16	O'	λόγο	ς τοί	ύ Χριστ	οũ έ	νοικείτω	έv	ύμῖν	πλοι	ιλουσίως,		πάα	ση σοφία
	The	word	-	of Chris	le	et dwell	in	you	richly	-	in	all	wisdom
	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Art-G	MS N-GMS	V	PMA-3S	Prep	PPro-D2P	Adv	Adv		Adj-DF	S N-DFS
1321	1 [e]	2	532 [e]	3560 [e]		1438 [e]	5568 [e]		215 [e]	5603	8 [e]	4152 [e]	
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διδάσκοντε		τες κ	αì	νουθετοῦ	ντες	έαυτοὺς	ψαλμα	οĩς , ἳ	ίμνοις	, പ്റ്	αῖς	πνευμ	ατικαῖς ,
tead	ching	а	nd	admonishing		each other	in psalm	ns h	ymns	[and	d] songs	spiritual	
V-PF	PA-NMP	С	onj	V-PPA-NMP		RefPro-AM3P	N-DMP	N	I-DMP	N-DFP		Adj-DFP	
1722	2 [e] 3588	[e] 548	5 [e]	103 [e]	1722	[e] 3588 [e]	2588 [e]	477	1 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]		
en	tē	cha	riti	adontes	en	tais	kardiais	hyr	nōn	tō	Theō		
έv	τŋ	χά	ριτι	ἄδοντες	, έv	ταῖς	καρδί	αις ὑμ	ῶv,	τῶ	Θεῷ		
with	n -	gra	ce	singing	in	the	hearts	of y	/ou	to	God		
Prep	Art-D	FS N-D	FS	V-PPA-NMP	Prep	Art-DFP	N-DFP	PPr	o-G2P	Art-DMS	N-DMS		

3:16 – "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

- 1. Here we need to explain the phrase "word of Christ". Does it refer to:
 - a. the message about Christ, or
 - b. the message from Christ
- 2. if "word of Christ" refers to the words spoken by Christ on earth or the words revealed to prophets and apostles, we can gain insight from a similar verse at the same point in the letter to the Ephesians:

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but <u>understand what the will of the Lord</u>

is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but <u>be filled with the Spirit</u>, addressing one another in <u>psalms</u> and <u>hymns</u> and <u>spiritual songs</u>, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ." – Ephesians 5:15-21

- 3. It might appear that "word of Christ" and "Spirit" are the same. Knowing the Word of Christ is to "be filled with the Spirit" and vice versa.
- 4. "let dwell", enoikeo, means "to dwell in" and "I am settled and stationary in".
 - a. It is a word used to express dwelling in a home or to refer to one's personal residence.
 - b. It is a state of dwelling.
- 5. And, note Ephesians 5:18-21 parallel verse focuses on "be filled with the Spirit."
 - a. Two sides of the same coin: The Word and The Spirit
 - i. The "word of Christ" would be looking back at the words Christ had spoken during his life. This would not be the words the Lord would speak as in an inner voice or personal witness to the individual hearts.
 - ii. Both the "word of Christ" (here, Col. 3:16) and "being filled with the Spirit" (Ep. 5:18-21) are parallel and result in similar products in the believers.
 - iii. The "word" is to be a driving force and determining factor in the body of believers living in harmony with each other and motivated by love.
 - iv. It may be Paul avoided referring to the "spirit" and any form of personal mysticism to prevent the Colossians from misunderstanding what he was saying.
- 6. "Teaching" orderly arrangement of truth
- 7. "Admonishing" includes encouragement to live out the truth of the word of God that has been taught in a practical and moral fashion.
- 8. Thanksgiving was to be given to God for the "word of Christ" and the "teaching/admonishing" by singing songs of thanksgiving.
- 9. The breakdown of the meaning of the types of music or song may not be necessary or intended by Paul, but if they were to be divided the division could be something like this:
 - a. Psalms Jewish style, maybe; Old Testament Psalms, but also consider 1 Corinthians 14:26 – "each one has a psalm."
 - b. Hymn Greek style singing, maybe; only used in NT here and Ephesians 5:19. A celebration of praise or the proclamation of doctrinal truth such as Colossians 1:15-20 and Philippians 2:5-11
 - c. Spiritual Songs refers to spiritual inspired or directed lyrics. Note that "spiritual" qualifies all three: psalms, hymns and songs.

3:17 – "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

2532	[e] 3956 [e]	3739 [e]	5101 [e]	1437 [e]	4160 [e]	1722 [e]	3056 [e]	2228 [e]	1722 [e] 2041 [e]	3956 [e]
kai	pan	ho	ti	ean	poiēte	en	logō	ē	en	ergō		panta
17 καὶ	πᾶν,	ő	τι	έὰν	ποιῆτε	έv	λόγω	ή	έv	ἔργϥ	р,	πάντα
And	everythi	ng which	what	if	you might do	in	word	or	in	deed		all
Conj	Adj-ANS	RelPro-ANS	IPro-ANS	Conj	V-PSA-2P	Prep	N-DMS	Conj	Prep	N-DNS		Adj-ANP
1722 [e] 3	3686 [e]	2962 [e]	2424 [e]	2168 [6	e]	3588 [e] 2316 [e]	3962 [e]		1223 [e]	846 [e]
en d	onomati	Kyriou	lēsou	eucha	aristountes	tō	Theō	Patri		di'	auto	u
έν	όνόματι Κυρίου		Ίησοῦ	, εὐχαριστοῦντες		τῷ	Θεῷ	Πατρὶ		δι'	αὐ	τοῦ.
in [[the] name	of [the] Lord	Jesus	giving	thanks	-	to God	[the] F	ather	through	Him	
Prep 1	N-DNS	N-GMS	N-GMS	V-PPA-	NMP	Art-DM	S N-DMS	N-DMS		Prep	PPro	-GM3S

The three step process of the Christian life is clear:

- 1. Being <u>among the members</u> of the body of Christ peacefully in order to be strengthened and prepared.
- 2. Be <u>equip with the Truth, the Word of Christ</u>, so that each believer is filled with the Spirit empowered to apply wisdom and knowledge
- 3. <u>Go into your life and into the world</u> doing and saying everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

3:18 - "Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

	3588 [e]	1135 [e]	5293 [e]	3588 [e]	435 [e]	5613 [e]	433 [e]	1722 [e]	2962 [e]
	Hai	gynaikes	hypotassesthe	tois	andrasin	hōs	anēken	en	Kyriō
18	Αί	γυναῖκες,	ύποτάσσεσθε	τοῖς	άνδράσιν ,	ώς	ἀνῆκεν	έv	Κυρίφ .
	-	Wives	submit yourselves	to the	husbands	as	is fitting	in	[the] Lord
	Art-VFP	N-VFP	V-PMP-2P	Art-DMP	N-DMP	Adv	V-IIA-3S	Prep	N-DMS

- 1. "submit" *hypotassesthe* is present imperative passive of *hupotasso* which means to place under, rank under, to subject, to obey.
 - a. Used to say "I place under", "I subject to", "I put myself into subjection"
 - b. Meaning here in passive indicates this "submitting" is done to the wife and not by the wife. In other words, the marriage position determines this action, not the wife's personhood, inferiority, intelligence, social standing or cultural norm. The English struggles to communicate this:
 - i. NEB "be subject to"
 - ii. NIV "subit to"
 - iii. KJV submit yourselves unto"
 - iv. GNB "sumbit yourselves to"
 - v. Goodspeed -"subordinate yourselves to"
 - c. Think of it this way:
 - i. You may be smarter than your parents, but they are the leader.
 - ii. You may be a better athlete than the players you are coaching, but they are the only ones who can play the game.

- iii. You may have more financial wisdom, but it is your working class neighbor who inherited the estate.
- iv. Examples of position and responsibility go on and on and on.
- v. It is by design, and the Creator designed it this way.
- 2. "fitting in the Lord" *aneken* "to be fit" or "be proper". It is used to say "is due" or "suitable. The idea is that in marriage this is the proper order.
 - a. This is the first of many "organizational" themes Paul is going to mention.
 - b. There are systems and institutions established for the wellbeing of mankind in God's creation and in God's reality.
 - c. The sin nature of man will:
 - i. Pervert and abuse these institution. For example: Use marriage to be abusive and domineering of women. This is not the intent anymore that the winning coach wants to abuse his players or the honest financially wise neighbor feels it is his right to steel the inheritance of a neighbor who struggles managing money.
 - ii. Eliminate, override or mock the institution established by God.
- 3. FOCUS: This verse is talking about marriage. It is between one man and one woman. This verse is not saying women "submit" to men any more than the next verse is telling men to "love" all women as a husband "loves" his wife.

3:19 - "Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them."

	3588 [e]	435 [e]	25 [e]	3588 [e]	1135 [e]	2532 [e]	3361 [e]	4087 [e]	4314 [e]	846 [e]
	Hoi	andres	agapate	tas	gynaikas	kai	mē	pikrainesthe	pros	autas
19	Οì	άνδρες, άγαπᾶτε		τὰς	γυναῖκας,	καὶ	μὴ	πικραίνεσθε	πρὸς	αὐτάς.
	-	Husbands	love	the	wives	and	not	be harsh	toward	them
	Art-VMP	N-VMP	V-PMA-2P	Art-AFP	N-AFP	Conj	Adv	V-PMM/P-2P	Prep	PPro-AF3P

- 1. "love" agapate is present imperative active of agapao which means "to love" and is used to say "wish well, "take pleasure in", "long for" and is based in reason and esteem for the other person. This is a love that considers the other person before themselves.
 - a. The matching verse in Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"
- 2. "harsh" means "to make bitter" and is used to say "I make bitter", "I grow angry", "I become harsh"
 - a. This term prohibits becoming bitter, resentful and expressing words or actions that cause pain
- 3. The grammatical details using continuing action allows this to say: "Keep on loving them and stop being harsh with them."

3:20 – "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

	3588 [e]	5043 [e]	5219 [e]	3588 [e]	1118 [e]	2596 [e]	3956 [e]	3778 [e]	1063 [e]	2101 [e]	1510 [e]	1722 [e]	2962 [e]
	Та	tekna	hypakouete	tois	goneusin	kata	panta	touto	gar	euareston	estin	en	Kyriō
20	Tà	τέκνα ,	ύπακούετε	τοῖς	γονεῦσιν	κατὰ	πάντα ;	τοῦτο	γὰρ	εὐάρεστόν	έστιν	έv	Κυρίφ .
	-	Children	obey	the	parents	in	all things	this	for	pleasing	is	in	[the] Lord
	Art-VNP	N-VNP	V-PMA-2P	Art-DMP	N-DMP	Prep	Adj-ANP	DPro-NNS	Conj	Adj-NNS	V-PIA-3S	Prep	N-DMS

- 1. "obey" "listen to", "answer to", "attend to"
- 2. "pleases" acceptable, well-pleasing, grateful

3:21 – "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

	3588 [e]	3962 [e]	3361 [e]	2042 [e]	3588 [e]	5043 [e]	4771 [e]	2443 [e]	3361 [e]	120 [e]
	Hoi	pateres	mē	erethizete	ta	tekna	hymōn	hina	mē	athymōsin
21	Οί	πατέρες ,	μὴ	ἐρεθίζετε	τὰ	τέκνα	ύμῶν ,	ίνα	μὴ	ἀθυμῶσιν .
	-	Fathers	not	do provoke	the	children	of you	that	not	they might become discouraged
	Art-VMP	N-VMP	Adv	V-PMA-2P	Art-ANP	N-ANP	PPro-G2P	Conj	Adv	V-PSA-3P

- 1. "provoke" -- "to stir up", "to arouse to anger", "irritate", "incite"
- 2. "discouraged" "to lose heart", "to be despondent", "to become disheartened"
 - a. Basically the father's attitude causes the children to give up

3:22 – "Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord."

2	3588 [e] Hoi 2 Oi - Art-VMP	1401 [e] douloi δοῦλοι , Slaves N-VMP	5219 [e] hypak ύπαι obey V-PMA-	ouete κούετε	2596 [e] kata κατὰ in Prep	3956 [e] panta πάντα all things Adj-ANP	the	kata κατ		4561 [e] sarka σάρκ flesh N-AFS	2962 [e] kyriois α κυρίοις masters N-DMP	,	3361 [e] mē μὴ not Adv	1722 [en έv with Prep	e]		
0 ,2 e	⁷⁸⁷ [e] phthalmod φθαλμο ye-services	δουλίαις	5613 [e] hōs ὡς as Adv	anthrōp	ωπάρει	σκοι,	all'	1722 [e] en έν in Prep	572 [e] haplote ἁπλά sincerif	iti k στητι 1 y c	2588 [e] kardias καρδίας , of heart v-GFS	ph φα fea	¹⁹ [e] oboumer oβούμε aring PM/P-NMF	VOL	3588 [e] ton τον the Art-AMS	2962 [e] Kyrion Κύριον Lord N-AMS	

- 1. "slaves" is *douloi*. This word is often translated "servants". It refers to someone who belongs to another and is without any ownership rights of their own.
- 2. They could be in total bondage as a result of being captive of war or as a result of debt, economics or politics.
- 3. Paul looks beyond their situation and urges slaves to live Christ like.
- 4. The largest section of verses are dedicated to slaves (3:22-25) possibly because:
 - a. Large number of believing slaves at Colosse
 - b. Onesimus (in the letter to Philemon) may have been one of many revolting/fleeing slaves
 - c. Onesimus' escape may have encouraged others to behave the same
 - d. "obey" is hypakouo not "submit" hypotasso.

- 5. Clearly, many of the members of the believing community in Colosse were slaves because of the large portion of text written to them. Many of the new believing Christians were slaves and servants:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 "For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."
 - b. James2:5 "Listen, my beloved brothers: Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised those who love Him?"
- 6. Slaves time in the service or believing community was a unique time in culture where they were considers equals, brothers.
- 7. Their commitment to the Lord Jesus did not erase their temporal standing as servants with masters in this world. But, they could now serve with a higher calling and a new divine view of their life now and their life eternal.
 - a. Christianity was not a revolutionary movement to overthrow the world, but to invade the world with the philosophy, the life and the morals of a coming world (age or kingdom.
 - b. Christianity was about transformation of individuals which would cause transformation of pagan societies in the present age. But, Christianity would never completely conqueror in this age because of the world, the flesh and the devil. Total overthrow would take place when the Lord Jesus returned.
 - c. Christians were never to be treasonous, but at times they would have to choose between serving the God or serving the world.
 - i. Acts 25:8 "Then Paul made his defense: "I have done nothing wrong against the Jewish law or against the temple or against Caesar."
 - ii. Romans 13:1-7
 - iii. 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - iv. Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."
- 8. It is hard for the Western mind which is based in materialism, success and living your best life now to comprehend God's concern for the inner man's fellowship with God, preparation for eternity and conforming into the image of Jesus.
 - a. Conforming into the image of Jesus is opposite the "world system" controlled by Satan and his values.
 - b. Satan knows this age is passing away. He knows that what he has now in this temporal kingdom will eventually be lost for all eternity:

- Rev. 12:12 – "Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

- 9. Slaves have a <u>new attitude</u>. No longer motivated by the world system and human approval.
 - a. Ophthalmodoulia is a compound of:
 - i. Ophthalmos = "eye"
 - ii. *Doulos* = "service"
 - b. "Fear of the Lord" *phobeomai* reverence for the Lord is now their motivation to serve in this age. Think of:

- i. Joseph
- ii. Daniel
- iii. Onesimus

3:23 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,"

- 1. Slaves have a new reference point: The Lord
- 2. The Lord is the ultimate master of all
- 3. Work was not done for men, but in obedience and worship of the Lord
- 4. "work" is in the imperative or the mood of command
- 5. Here the word for "heart" or "heartily" is *ek psuche* which means "out of soul" and most likely refers to the physical effort that is manifested from the soul working through the body. This is in contrast to the inner attitude of 3:22 "sincerity of heart."

3:24 – "knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

- 1. Slaves have a new level of reward. No longer temporal and of this passing world, but eternal and of the Kingdom of God.
- 2. "reward" is the same one referred to in 1:12 "Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light."
- 3:25 "For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality."
 - 1. Three types of motivation are given in 3:24-35
 - a. Reward an inheritance from the Lord. Here the doctrine of eternal rewards gets some life application.
 - b. The Lord the slave's service on earth was service to the Lord Christ.
 - c. Retribution there will be vindication for anything the slaves do wrong or in rebellion.
 - 2. Who is this verse warning: Slaves or Masters? This verse ends the words to slaves, but may introduce the words to the masters.
 - a. "Anyone who does wrong" clearly "anyone" means anyone anywhere at any time. But, in context:
 - i. Slaves are responsible to do what is right in the eyes of the master on earth and in heaven
 - ii. Masters are responsible to do what is right in the eyes of their slaves on earth and their master in heaven.
 - 3. "There is no favoritism"
 - a. On earth and in this current world system there is favoritism. And, the favoritism of this age can confuse and deceive the people of this age.
 - i. The morality of this age is not always aligned with eternal morality
 - ii. The last of this age will be first and the first of this age will be last.
 - iii. Acceptance, fame and legendary status in this age does not translate into acceptance, fame and legendary status in the age to come
 - b. Masters and slaves will be judged by the same standard with no concern for their worldly status. There will be no worldly favoritism transferred into the eternal judgment or the eternal kingdom.

4:1 – "Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."

- 1. The World, the flesh and the devil Ephesians 2:2-3 -
 - "You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this <u>world</u>, following the <u>prince of the power of the air</u>, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience among whom we all once lived in the passions of <u>our flesh</u>, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."
 - a. The Father opposes the world 1 John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."
 - b. Holy Spirit opposes the <u>flesh</u> Galatians 5:16-17 "I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."
 - c. The Son opposes the <u>devil</u> 1 John 3:8 "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." (and, Luke 4)
- 2. Truth, and deception 2 Thessalonians 2:11 "Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."
- 3. Suffering
 - a. 1 Peter 3:8-22
 - b. 1 Peter 4:12-17
- 4. Deliverance
 - a. 1 Peter 5:6-11
 - b. 2 Timothy 4:15-18

John 16:33 – "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

1 John 5:5 – "Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"