

Experiencing Christ

Introduction: Are you experiencing the profound reality of having Christ, God of all creation, living inside your heart? Have you considered what this means to you? Do you believe that Christ can “expand Himself” in you to such a degree that you think, feel, and act the way He did while on the earth in human form? Quote from T. Austin Sparks: “The Church has no existence in the thought of God apart from the revelation of Jesus Christ, and it is judged according to the measure in which Christ the Son of God's love is in evidence by its existence.”

The Centrality & Supremacy of Christ:

1. Christ is God. All creation was made by Him, is sustained through Him, and exists for Him. Col. 1:15-20, John 1
2. Christ brings us to and reveals the Father. John 17: 6, 26;
3. Christ is King over the Kingdom of God. Col. 1:15-23; 1 Tim.1:17, 6:15; Rev. 17:14, 19:16
4. Christ is Head over the church. Eph. 5:23
5. All things in heaven and earth are being brought under Christ. Eph. 1:10, 20-22

Identification With Christ:

1. Christ was fully man while on the earth. He is called the Son of Man. Matt. 12:8, 25:31
2. In and through the first Adam all sinned and died. 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Ro. 5:12-17
3. When we place our faith in Christ, his blood, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection, we become one with him. In and through the last Adam (Christ) all those who place their faith in him are saved, restored, made alive, given eternal life. Christ is called the last Adam because he is the last human being who had to completely bear the suffering and consequences of sin on behalf of the human race. The first Adam opened the door to sin and death, the last Adam paid the penalty for sin and shut the door on the power of sin and death. As we can totally identify with the first Adam, so we can totally identify with the last Adam. Therefore, we were crucified with Christ. We died with Christ. We were buried with Christ. We were raised with Christ. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places. We rule and reign with Christ. We are sons of God through Christ. We are one with Christ. He is in us, and we are in him. Ro. 5 & 8; 1 Co. 15:45; Gal.3

Christ Dwelling In Our Hearts:

1. Bible passages: Jn. 17:20-23; Gal. 2:20, 4:19; Col. 1:27; Ro. 8:9-11,29; Eph. 3:16-17; II Cor. 3:18
2. Our hearts are also called our “inner man”, or our “spirit”.
3. The impact of Christ’s indwelling presence when we relate to Him as King:
 - a. Capacity to overcome self-centeredness, sin, sickness, and Satan.
 - b. The fruit of the Spirit increases: John 15, Gal. 5:22
 - c. Our mind’s become Christ’s mind. Ro. 12:2; Phil. 2:5
 - d. Christ’s power flows through us to heal and deliver others. Acts 1:8; Lk. 10:1-24
4. Developmental Stages of Christ Within.
 - a. The experiential infilling (revelation) of Christ in the heart. Gal. 1:15-16
 - b. The Life of Christ animating and empowering...The living of Christ’s life within. Gal.2:20
 - c. The forming of Christ within. Gal.4:19

- d. The habitation or home making of Christ. Eph. 3:17
- e. The glorified Christ within...the consummation of Christ. Ro.8:28-30

Knowing, Communing, and Experiencing The Indwelling Christ:

- 1. Setting our hearts and minds on the things above. Col. 3:1-4
- 2. Gazing on Christ through the eyes of our hearts. Heb. 12:2; Eph. 1:18
- 3. Coming to Christ through His Word. Col. 3:16

Living By The Life of Christ: Christ is a life-giving Spirit. 1 Cor. 15:45; John 10:10; Gal. 2:20

- 1. In Christ we live, move, and have our being. Acts 17:28
- 2. His life animates and empowers us. Gal. 2:20
- 3. Out of our inner most being will come "rivers of living water". Jn. 7:38
- 4. He brings many "sons to glory". Heb. 2:10-12
- 5. Christ baptizes us in The Holy Spirit. Acts 2:33
- 6. Christ enables us to "reign in life". Ro. 5:9-21; 1 Jn. 4

How To Commune, Abide, and Remain In Christ:

- 1. The key: Humility, Surrender, Submission, Faith, Obedience To Christ as King. Heb. 4:1-2
- 2. Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature. Col. 3:5
- 3. Setting our hearts and minds on the things above. Col. 3:1-4
- 4. Gazing on Christ with the eyes of our hearts. Eph. 1:18
- 5. Cultivating an attitude of thanksgiving, praise and worship as the doorways into His presence. The power of praising God for what He has done and is doing, and worshipping Him for who He is as a lifestyle.
- 6. Using Christ's written Word (Bible) as a means into His presence. Using the Bible devotionally as a bridge of communication to Christ.(See 2 Proapt page)
- 7. Learning to listen to Christ's voice. Jn. 10:3
- 8. Practicing the gifts of the Spirit like praying in tongues. 1 Co. 14:4
- 9. Setting faith goals to know, love, obey, and follow Christ. Eph. 2:8-9 (see 5 C's through 4 D's)
- 10. Strict discipline, train yourself to be godly: Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training...I beat my body and make it my slave....1 Cor. 9:25; "Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.... 1 Tim.4:7-8. Learn and practice all the spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, solitude & silence, secrete giving, etc.
- 11. Meeting with Christ through Christ's family/body/community. Ro. 12:4-5; 1 Co. 12-13; Eph. 4:25

Becoming Like Christ:

- 1. Biblical promises: 1 Jn.4:10-17; Ro. 15:29, 48-49; 2 Co. 3:18; 2 Pet. 1:3-4;
- 2. Allowing Christ to be formed inside us. Gal. 4:19
- 3. Aggressively going after Christ: Col. 1:28-29. "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Col. 2:6-7
- 4. Helping to present others "perfect in Christ". Col. 1:28-29
- 5. Greater works! John 14:12