

Christ in You

By Rev. Lonny R. Bower

Scripture References – John 13:12-17, 14:19-24, 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:20-24, 5:1-2; Philippians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:20 – 3:10; 1 Peter 2:19-24

Unit Theme: Christian Ethics

Central Truth: Because Christians are changed by Christ, they can live pleasing to God.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Introduction:

Consider for a moment what it means to have Christ in you. How does one know that Christ is in them and when would one know it, or how does one demonstrate His internal work to others? When asked what it means to have Christ living in them Christians often respond with some of the following. Inner peace, joy, release, understanding, hope and power are some of the things one may hear, but what does this mean to the unsaved? Is there any way that the world could observe our lives and deduce for themselves that Christ must be in us? Perhaps an observation of our weekly (or more frequent) trips to church would reveal Christ in us. I'm not convinced, as I'm pretty sure I've met some of the devils (if not the devil himself) workers in church. What about our lifestyle then, wouldn't that be enough for the world to know that Christ is in us? No, I'm still not convinced that our lifestyle alone would do it, as I have met non Christians that from the outward appearance seemed to be more loving than many Christians I know. While the world looks on the outward appearance and makes a judgment (oftentimes in error) the Lord looks on our heart (1 Samuel 16:7) and sees the divine potential in us. He then begins to remove the outer shell and we begin a process of becoming more like Him – one may refer to it as sanctification. His love will not leave us the same but actually consumes our old nature and gives us a new nature that is able to emanate His love to a lost and dying world around us. So then, Christ in you means that your nature has changed, the old is gone and the new has come. This never happens in a vacuum, but is evident to all, as we become strangers to those who have not been changed by the love of God (1 Peter 4:4).

I. Live in Christ's Presence – John 14:19-24, 17:20-23

There are a few things I would like to point out here; first, Jesus was preparing to physically depart from them. Remember when you parted ways with a loved one, were you not consumed with an overwhelming desire to just make time stand still so that you or your loved one would not leave? Certainly the disciples must have felt this way about Jesus' departure. Next, Jesus says to them though the world will not see me, you will see me – huh? He is simply reemphasizing what he had already stated in John 10:10b "I have come that you may have life...." Since He lives we too shall live, indeed our very being is sustained through the living Christ – it is not a question of "can man live without Christ" it's a matter of, man cannot live without Christ. So then, we see Him living in each other. Next He says if we love Him we'll keep His commandments – to love God...and to love our neighbor as ourselves. If we do this then He says that we will be loved of the Father and He will manifest himself in us – wow! So how does He manifest himself, is it not through love and life transformation? I challenge you to find one skeptic, atheist, or agnostic that has been transformed by their belief. Find one who

