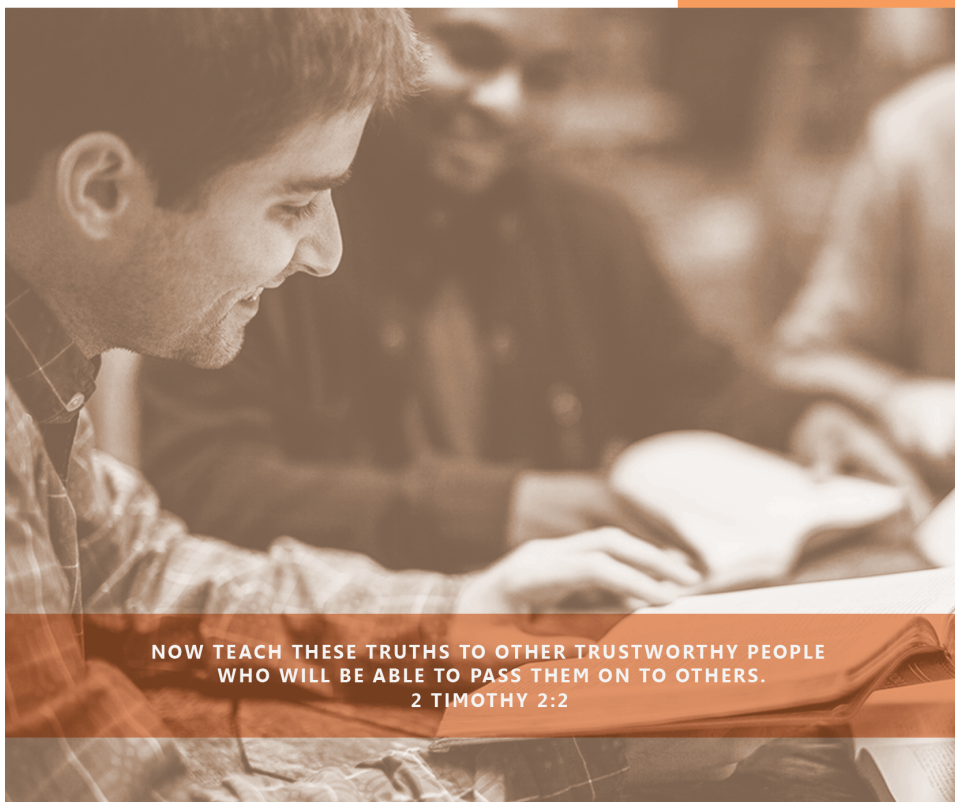




2 SQUARED DISCIPLESHIP

BOOK II

LEVEL



NOW TEACH THESE TRUTHS TO OTHER TRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE
WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PASS THEM ON TO OTHERS.
2 TIMOTHY 2:2

WELCOME!

The goal of 2 Squared Discipleship is that you are able to share what you have learned with someone else one day, and in so doing you will be making a disciple as Christ commanded. But discipleship is much more than just knowing truths, it is really about sharing your life with someone. Don't lose sight of that as you complete this study. Let it be a time to learn how to share the truths of the Gospel, but also how to share your heart and soul with others as well. We want to be able to say with Paul,

"so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." 1 Thessalonians 2:8

You are about to begin the LIVE Bible study. By now you have most likely completed the LIFE study. That study gave us the basic principles of growth in Christ. This study will take those principles to the next level as we learn to live by the indwelling life of Jesus Christ that has been placed inside of us by the Spirit.

This book will take you through parts of the Gospel of John and Paul's letters with the specific intention of seeing the truths that teach us how to live by and through the life of Christ.

Along the way, you will see scriptures with different colored notes:

Those in blue print are commentary on the text.

Those in green print are explanations of words or phrases.

Those in purple print are thoughts to stir our hearts.

Following the scriptures, you will see "The Source of Life," and "The Signs of Life" sections. Here you will find questions to get you thinking about the life of Christ inside of you. Here's an example to try:

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

1. What do you think it means to be truly alive?
2. How alive are you?

Are you ready to explore God's plan for your life? To see what it means to be truly alive? If so, turn the page...

LIVE 1: The Tree of Life

BIG IDEA:

God wants us to be fully alive with His eternal life so that we can image Him and worship Him. But because of the Fall, we are living lives that “fall short of the glory of God.”

I. God's Life Purpose in Genesis I

Genesis 1:1-5, 11-13, 20-25

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

11 And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

20 And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” 21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

God is the highest life form. Thank God it is not us.

“Spirit” is the same Hebrew word as breath or wind. Here he is hovering over the water, later breathing life into Adam.

Notice the many and various life forms that God created.

Life is good!

This is almost like saying "let's make a photocopy of a photograph." In a sense, man is two degrees removed from God. This shows the greatness of our God and also the honor of our design. It also shows our total dependence upon God for life.

Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Every person bears God's image—including you!

As God's image bearers we were made for purpose ("fill the earth and subdue it") and intimacy with God and with each other ("be fruitful and multiply"). He longs to express His glorious life through His image bearers.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. God is the highest life form and we, as humans, were made in His image. He made us LIVE so that the invisible God could be seen through us.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

2. Can you think of a time in your life when you felt fully alive? → Write or draw it in the box.

3. Re-read the blue text above. How do purpose and intimacy cause us to feel fully alive?

Me Fully Alive

2. God's Life Purpose in Genesis 2

Genesis 2:1-9, 15-17

1. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

God breathes into man the breath of life. This is the spirit, which animates our soul. When Adam received the breath of God he became a "living creature/soul." The word for "creature" is nephesh, which is equated with desire. Adam came alive with desire and the freedom to choose based upon those desires.*

God placed two trees in the center of the Garden. The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This provided man with a free choice.

God placed a spirit into man when he breathed into his nostrils. But this is still human life – not God's divine, eternal, abundant life.

Our purpose! Serving God by serving in the Garden.

The Tree of Knowledge separates us from God and His life by tantalizing us with a knowledge of good and evil. This knowledge will allow man to be independent of God, which of course means death. This desire to determine good from evil is the basis of all religion. Without the Tree of Life, no one could be truly good because they would not have the life of God inside of them.

There have been lots of ideas about the Tree of Life over the years and there is much speculation, but it does seem to be true that the Tree of Life offers a higher form of life than what God originally breathed into man: the eternal life of God— the abundant life and fullness of God himself.

*The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4

the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Ecc. 12:7

Thus says the Lord,...who gives breath to the people... and spirit to those who walk in it: Is. 42:5

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

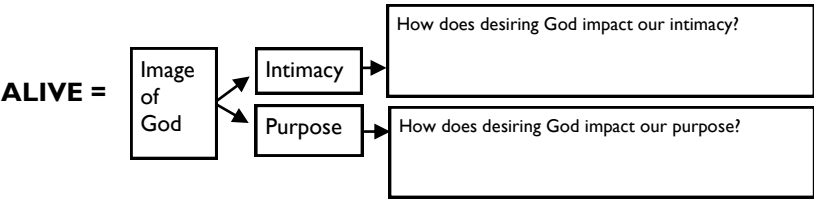
4. Genesis 2 shows us that God wants us to live with Him in His presence forever. Our whole life flows from knowing Him.
5. Take a few deep breaths.....
- That breath is from God, and it fills us with life and longing. But it is just the beginning. God wants to breathe into us an even better life.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

6. The signs of life are: a) Freedom– we can’t just be a bunch of robots, b) Love – we must have connection and sacrifice, c) Purpose– we must know that we are doing good and making a difference.
- Review Genesis 1 and 2. In what ways did the Garden provide freedom, love and purpose (use the chart to make a list)?

Freedom	Love	Purpose

7. God surrounded Adam and Eve with freedom, love, and purpose (see chart above). Why are these things necessary for imaging God and being “in His likeness” (Gen. 1:26)?
8. Re-read the green text on p.4. God created us with desire. In what way is desire one of the greatest “signs of life?” What do you think God wanted them to desire?



3. The Fall: rejecting God's life.

Genesis 3:1-16

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Adam and Eve should rule over the creation, including the serpent. Here, Satan uses the creation (the serpent) to rule over them. They chose Knowledge over Life, and thus Satan and Sin will rule over them.

Notice the signs of death: hiding, blaming, and confusion. They are both trying to use their new knowledge to figure out how to get out of trouble.

Freedom, love, and purpose (the signs of life) are all missing. They are falling short of God's glory.*

Satan tempted them with something (to be like God) that they already had (Gen. 1:16 – made in God's likeness).

Oh how we long for this kind of intimacy with God!

In the curses we see that now the enemy has dominion over the earth. There is an enmity between Satan and humanity, between the man and the woman, and between the earth and man.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

Genesis 3:17-24

17 And to Adam he said,
 "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
 and have eaten of the tree
 of which I commanded you,
 'You shall not eat of it,'
 cursed is the ground because of you;
 in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.
 19 By the sweat of your face
 you shall eat bread,
 till you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
 for you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return."

"Dust" = death.
 Adam and Eve
 are physically
 dying- And so
 are we.

Is it possible that
 if they had eaten
 from the Tree of
 Life, they would
 have had God's
 eternal life and
 goodness in them
 -they would have
 had union with
 God forever?

20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the
 mother of all living. 21 And the Lord God made for Adam
 and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.
 22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become
 like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach
 out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live
 forever—" 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the
 garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was
 taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the
 garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword
 that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

After the Fall, God
 closed off the Gar-
 den and denied
 access to the Tree of
 Life. Why? Because
 before man can eat
 and have eternal
 life, they will need
 to be forgiven- the
 old nature and flesh
 will need to die as
 well as the physical
 body, and a new
 spirit from God will
 need to be breathed
 into man. Otherwise
 they would be
 trapped in sin.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

9. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represents self-efforts at being good and figuring out life. It is living from a system rather than living from a desire to know and worship God.

10. Adam and Eve chose the Knowledge of Good and Evil over Life. Ironically we can never be truly good without the LIFE OF GOD inside of us.

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. Mk. 10:18

11. At His core, God is a giver, and He still wants us to eat from the Tree of Life. Read Revelation 2:7 and 22:1-2 to see God's desire for us fulfilled.

SIGNS OF LIFE.

12. What's the difference between living from a system of knowing good and evil and living from a desire to know and worship God? How would these two kinds of living look different?

Important: What we talk about when we talk about the

DESIRE

“Man became a living soul.”

As we already said, the Hebrew word for “soul” is *nephesh*. This word literally means throat— man is a living throat. Why would God describe us this way. Because the throat represents thirst and hunger— desire. We hunger and thirst for something bigger than ourselves. We thirst and hunger for God.

Therefore, when we talk about desire, we are talking about what makes a human a human. We have desires beyond every other creature. We have desires beyond the physical desires. We have rational, relational, emotional, and spiritual desires too.

So for the Christian, desire is not bad. In fact it is the very key to spiritual growth.

We always choose what we believe to be most desirable.

In the Garden, Adam and Eve were faced with a dilemma of desire. Would they choose the Tree of Life or the Tree of Knowledge? Well, which did they desire more? Which would they find most pleasing?

Of course we know which one they chose.

We too are faced with a dilemma of desire. Which will we find more pleasurable — God and His life, or ourselves and our false gods? All spiritual growth and the putting off of sin happens in the battleground of the heart’s desire.

You can only overcome desire with a greater desire.

¹⁶ *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

¹⁷ *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.* ¹⁸ *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (Galatians 5:16-18).*

The only way Adam and Eve could have won in the Garden was if the desire to know, trust, and live with God, was greater than their desire for knowledge and the chance to “be like God.”

This is true for us as well. We must find a desire for God that is far greater than our desire for all of the “God substitutes.” These include good things that we turn into ultimate things, and evil things that we have no business desiring in the first place.

The life of Christ in us, will give us this greater desire. Keep reading...

LIVE 2: In Him Was Life

BIG IDEA:

Jesus came to re-introduce us to life: real and abundant life.

I. In Him Was Life

John uses the Greek word zoe for the word "life." This word always refers to the divine life of God in John's writings.

God is offering spiritual birth (life) into His family as children of God. God offers His life to those who receive Jesus.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*When we believe in Christ, something amazing happens – we receive God's life, His DNA, His nature!**

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. Just like in the Garden, Jesus offers us God's life.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

2. When someone trusts Jesus as their savior, we would say that they have received eternal life. But what exactly is this life? Is it just living forever? Is it living forever as the same person I was before? How would you explain it?
3. Is the phrase "eternal life" cliché to you? How can you regain your excitement for this promise?

*since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

1 Pt. 1:23

by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 2 Peter 1:4

2. I Came That They May Have Life

When we receive Christ, he enters into us as life.

Jesus offers us the abundant life of God.

The life of God is in the man Jesus Christ, because he is God.

He is the way to life.

Life is knowing the Trinity—ie: relationship with God!

John 6:47-48

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Jesus calls himself the source of life. He is the embodiment of the divine life..*

God wants us to live! To be fully alive.

When Adam and Eve sinned, God blocked the way to the Tree of Life. At Jesus' resurrection, the way to life was opened by his grace and mercy. Jesus is the way to life!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

- 4. Jesus wants us to have eternal, divine life (zoe) in abundance. This is not about having God's blessings. This is about having an overflowing of the divine life.
- 5. What is the difference between Jesus giving us eternal life and Jesus BEING that eternal life?

SIGNS OF LIFE.

- 6. Eternal life (zoe) is knowing God (Jn. 17:3). Do you have a relationship with God? How would you describe this relationship?

*In him was life, and the life was the light of men. Jn. 1:4

3. Jesus: A Life Giving Spirit

John 20:11-18

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

*Notice his language: "my Father and your Father." Now that Jesus has died and come back to life, he can be the firstborn of many brothers and sisters.**

Mary clings to Jesus but He tells her to stop. Why? Because he is letting her know that she and the rest of the disciples will be better off if she lets go so that he can ascend to the Father. He is preparing her for the new reality of having the Comforter, which is better than his physical presence.

*The ascension of Jesus is critical to our new life and power through Christ. At His ascension, Jesus became a Life Giving Spirit that takes up residence inside our spirit.***

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

7. Following his resurrection, Jesus will have to ascend to Heaven so that we can share in his life. Not only did Jesus grant us life through his death and resurrection, but through his ascension too. That is why Jesus told Mary to let him go. He needed to prepare her and the disciples emotionally and spiritually for what would happen soon: his ascension to the Father so that He could send the Holy Spirit.

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:10-11)

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

8. Re-read the green text above. Jesus gives Mary a glimpse of one of the greatest "signs of life" - our sonship. How important is sonship to you?

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Rom. 8:29.

**Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving spirit. 1 Cor. 15:45

4. Eternal Life Is Christ's Life

John tells us that the "eternal life" was "with the Father." This "eternal life" was "made manifest to us." Here John is speaking of the God-man Christ Jesus himself, whom they heard, and saw, and touched.

Do you have life?

1 John 1:1-2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

1 John 5:11-12, 20

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

How would you define eternal life? Many of us might say that eternal life is life with God in Heaven that goes on forever.

But eternal life is the life of Jesus that has always been and always will be.

When we place our faith in Jesus we become partakers of His divine life.*

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

9. Eternal life IS the life of Jesus. Jesus is Life! And life is knowing God (Jn.17:3).

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

10. On page 5, we connected life to imaging God and having freedom, love, and purpose. How does the person of Jesus offer all of these things?

11. 1 John 1:2 says that Jesus made eternal life "manifest to us." Can we do the same thing? Can we make eternal life (think knowing God) visible to others? How?

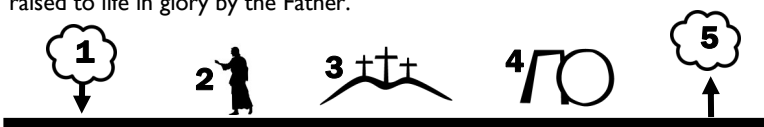
*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 2 Peter 1:3-4

Important: What we talk about when we talk about the

THE LIFE OF JESUS

THE STORY OF JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE STORY.

The story of Jesus is the story of a hero that saves the day, rescues the damsel, and defeats the enemy. He does it by dying in self sacrificing love, and by being raised to life in glory by the Father.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

God became man. Jesus stepped down from the privileges of heaven and humbled himself so He could be known by us and know us. He understands us and sympathizes with us. Jesus came to make us truly alive, truly human. The incarnation tells us that when we can't understand life, we know that God understands us.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

God not only became human, but He also lived a perfect human life. He kept the Law perfectly and completely. He satisfies all of God's requirements for us. He is judged as righteous. This takes the pressure off of us to be perfect— he did it for us. Now Abiding in Christ's life means resting in his perfect life.

3. The Death of Christ.

Jesus died as a human. He took the punishment for sin that we deserve: death and separation from God. His blood covers every sin that we have ever committed. Our union with his death kills the old man inside of us. Your death with Christ makes it so that you are free to not sin.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

Christ was raised from the dead to new life in a spiritual body. In this he was vindicated by God. His sacrifice for us was accepted and he was judged as righteous. Our union with his resurrection brings us this same new life.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

Jesus' ascension and glorification seated him next to God in a position of great honor. He is still human, yet perfect and gloriously holy. One day Jesus will be completely victorious over all sin and death. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places— now! Not just someday. This gives us the greatest of hopes for the future.

LIVE 3 : The Spirit of Truth

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit is the one who places the life of Jesus inside of us and empowers us to live by his divine life; therefore understanding the Holy Spirit is very important.

I. Jesus: The Way, The Truth, The Life

Read John 14:6-14

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

To know Jesus is to know Dad!

The union of Jesus and the Father is the basis of the union between Jesus and us.

Jesus and the Father are both God. Yet at the same time Jesus is submissive to the Father (obedient), while the Father is not submissive to the son. This is important for us because it will be the model for our relationship with Christ.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. If you know Jesus you know the Father (14:7). If you have Jesus' life inside of you, you have the Father's life inside of you— divine abundant, eternal life (zoe)!

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

2. Jesus' dependence upon the Father is the model for our dependence upon Christ (John 14:10-11). The Holy Spirit's role is to make us aware of our dependence upon Jesus. This is the way we truly know and desire God.

How aware are you of your dependence upon Christ? Do you desire to know God more than you desire a better life?

2. Jesus Promises The Spirit

"Helper." The Greek word is *parakletos*, which means "one who is called alongside of another." It has been translated as Advocate, Counselor, Encourager, and Comforter.

The life of the Trinity will live inside of us. This is how we experience God's eternal presence and love. This is how we know God*

The HS reminds us of the truth of Jesus, which gives us the life of Jesus.

Continue reading John 14:15-27

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. 25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 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.

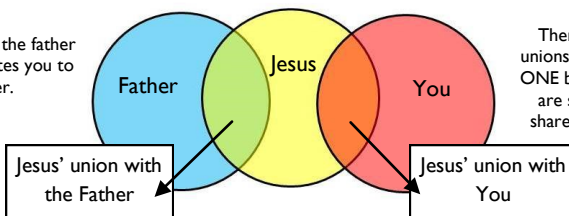
"another helper." This implies that Jesus is their current "Helper" and he will be replaced by the Spirit.

The idea behind "name" is the full authority of the person's character and status. The Father sends the HS to be a revelation of the character (name) of Jesus. We too are to pray according to the character and revelation of Christ.**

We don't have to be afraid anymore!

Peace is the result of the life of Jesus being inside of us through the Holy Spirit. This peace will radically change how we live. For the Jews, peace (*shalom*) was a supernatural serenity rooted in the presence of God, an inner sense of wellness that goes beyond our situation or circumstances.***

Jesus' union with the father and with you unites you to the Father.



There is a difference in our unions: Jesus and the Father are ONE being: God. You and Jesus are still separate beings but share the same divine nature.

*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us...16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 John 4:12,16.

** If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. John 14:14.

*** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

3. The same way Jesus shares life in unity with the Father, we share the life of Jesus. God will manifest Jesus' divine life in us by the Holy Spirit of truth.

How is our union with Jesus the same as Jesus' union with the Father?

How is our union with Jesus different from Jesus' union with the Father?

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

4. Re-read John 14:16. One of the greatest signs of life is that the indwelling Spirit is our Helper (Advocate, Counselor, Encourager, Comforter). The Spirit does this by applying the life of Jesus to us. How does your life being exchanged for the life of Jesus help, encourage, comfort, and counsel you?

5. Re-read John 14:13. Another sign of the life of Christ in us is "praying in Jesus' name." Jesus tells us to "ask in his name (John 14:13; 16:24; 16:26)." But what does it mean to "Pray in Jesus' name?" Here are a few things to remember:

- Praying in Jesus' name means recognizing that we only have access to the Father because of the work of the Son.
- When we expect God to hear us because of what we have done, we are praying in our own name rather than in Jesus' name.
- Praying in Jesus' name is not a formula or technique. Rather it is a realization that we can know God only through Christ.
- Prayer must occur in light of the person (perfect life, deity, humanity) and work (death, resurrection, ascension, intercession) of Christ.
- You don't have to say the words "in Jesus' name" in your prayer for you to be praying in Jesus' name. Praying in his name means to pray from His authority and status based upon who He is and what He has done.

6. When you pray, are you aware of Jesus and His life and work, which make prayer possible?

7. Read Jesus' prayer in the Garden (Luke 22:42). In what way did Jesus pray from the character and authority of the Father?

8. What is one thing you have been praying for lately? How could praying in the character and authority of Jesus change how you pray?

3. The Spirit of Truth

*By the Spirit of Truth
we live with Christ's own
life inside of us!*

*These verses describe
the role of the HS in
the world (not in the
church or in believers).*

*The HS convicts the
world of their guilt
using three things:
sin, righteousness,
and judgment.*

*The HS guides us into
the truth of the
life, death, and
resurrection of Jesus.*

Read John 16:4-15

4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

*Having the Holy Spirit will be better than the physical presence of Jesus. Why? Because He will breathe the life of Jesus INTO those who have faith in Jesus, and transform us into the image of Jesus from the inside out.**

In receiving the HS, we embody the truth of Jesus, and give testimony of His death and resurrection by our lives.

*Just as Jesus glorified the Father, the HS glorifies the Son. How? By revealing the truth of Jesus' glory to us, transforming us into the image of Jesus.**

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

9. Re-read John 16:13-14. Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit as our Helper to move us into the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done. This brings glory to Jesus.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

10. Does your life bring glory to Jesus? Does it reflect the truth of who he is and what he has done?

11. Re-read verse 7. Why is it better for us to have the Holy Spirit, rather than Jesus still being on earth physically?

* And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:18

4. A Life Of Joy And Peace

Read John 16:16-33

16 "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." 17 So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" 18 So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." 19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?" 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.

21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. 23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

25 "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

29 His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." 31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 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."

The Disciples' sorrow at Jesus' death was turned into joy at His resurrection. The more we enter into the death of Jesus and His sorrow, the more we experience the joy of His resurrection.

This refers to the age following the resurrection of Jesus.

The name of Jesus refers to his person and work. To pray in Jesus' name is to pray from the assurance of who He is and what He accomplished in his death and resurrection. This assurance brings us joy!

Two kinds of life are contrasted here: 1) the life everyone must live in the world, and 2) the life that believers live in Jesus. The first is trouble, and the second is peace in spite of trouble. As Christians, we live in both worlds.

When they see the resurrected Christ they will have joy.

But this joy is unstoppable— how? The indwelling life of Christ will bring that deep seated eternal joy of our salvation which cannot be lost, stolen, or given away.

The work of Jesus allows us direct access to the Father. We do not pray to Jesus and have him "put in a good word for us." That good word has already been spoken once for all. We can go directly to the Father, just like Jesus does.

And Jesus is with us! We are never alone.

*Jesus went to his death as a conqueror, not a victim. That is the life that Jesus offers to us.**

*35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?...37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8: 35, 37.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

12. Jesus promises us joy and peace in spite of the circumstances of this life. This is made possible by His life inside of us.

13. The great paradox of this life is that the more we enter into the death of Jesus and His sorrow, the more we experience the real joy of His resurrection (John 16:20).

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

14. One of the greatest signs of the indwelling life of Christ is joy. Do you live a joy filled life? Have you experienced the real joy of union with Christ's death (sacrificial love) and resurrection?

15. Re-read John 16:33. Another sign of the indwelling life of Christ is peace. Jesus promises us peace in spite of the circumstances of this life. How does the Holy Spirit bring us peace in this life? Does He change our circumstances? What does He change?

16. Can you think of a time in your life when you felt joy and the peace of God in spite of a hard circumstance?

Important: What we talk about when we talk about the

the HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father to glorify the Son and His death and resurrection.

Jesus' teaching from John 14-16 shows us that the "Spirit of Truth" is the Holy Spirit, who tells the truth of Jesus' life and work.

The Holy Spirit NEVER glorifies himself or asks you to have faith in the Spirit. Rather, He calls you to have faith in the person and work of the Son. The Holy Spirit seeks to bring us to a place of dependence upon the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live, I live by faith in the one who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal.2:20

When we talk about "dependence on the Spirit" we mean dependence on the cross and the resurrection of Christ.

Christians often talk about being guided and led by the Spirit, and how the Spirit leads them into greater power. But it is important to remember that the Spirit's path to power is through greater weakness and dependence upon the death of Christ. This is so that we boast only in the cross. The power and wisdom that the Spirit gives are the power and wisdom of the weakness and foolishness of the cross.

We do not grow spiritually or experience the life of Christ by focusing on having spiritual experiences. We do not grow by meeting conditions. Rather, we grow by focusing on the death and resurrection of Christ and our union in that death and resurrection (i.e. the Gospel).

the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Rm. 8:2

The Holy Spirit's mission is to make you aware of your need for Jesus.

The Spirit allows us to cry alongside Paul "I want to know him" (Phil. 3:10). To be spirit filled requires no conditions to be met or any special yielding to Him. It is yielded to us in our salvation by our new nature. It flows out of us as we know Christ and by faith depend completely on him and boast only in him.

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. Phil. 3:10

What does Spirit filling look like?

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, Col. 1:9-11

LIVE 4 : Abide In Me

BIG IDEA:

Jesus lived his life in constant connection to God. We live our lives in constant connection to God through Jesus.

I. How Jesus Lived His Life

John 14:8-11

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

John 5:30

"I can do nothing on my own." As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

John 7:16-17

So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. 17 If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority."

John 8:28

So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

John 6:57

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

Note: The words "because of" could also be translated as "by."

Jesus images the Father. How? By the indwelling of the Father. He is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus. Jesus lived by the indwelling life of the Father. Therefore everything Jesus did, He did from this divine life source.

Everything Jesus says comes from the Father's authority.

This statement can't refer to Jesus being created by the Father, because Jesus is the uncreated eternal God.*

Jesus never once lived independently of the Father. And you can't live independent of Jesus.

This a reference to the crucifixion. By His death Jesus proves that he lived by the indwelling Father's authority.

The good news is that we too can live by the life of God. We possess His zoe. But most of us, even as Christians, are still trying to live by the knowledge of Good and Evil (making decisions by thinking about right v wrong), rather than by the life of God.

* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. As a human, Jesus lived His life by the indwelling life of the Father and the Father’s love. Just like Jesus, we too can live by the life of God. This is what it means to be fully alive, or to be human. And that is why we are being conformed into the image of Jesus, because Jesus fully imaged God.*

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

2. Read Philippians 2:5-8. Jesus emptied himself and lived from the praise and glory of the Father. What “signs of life” did Jesus exhibit as he lived from dependence upon the Father?

3. Jesus emptied himself. Therefore he had to live from a place of dependence upon the Father. In the same way, we live from a place of dependence upon Jesus. Think about this past week. Can you think of an example of a time that you lived from dependence upon Christ? Can you think of a time that, like Adam and Eve, you lived from a system of Good v. Evil? How are these two mindsets different?

Living from Knowledge of Good and Evil	Living from dependence on Christ

2. How We Live Life

Jesus is calling himself our life source.

“Pruning” – God uses the painful things of this life to cut away all that is unfruitful, causing us to draw on the life of Jesus more and more.

John 15:1-5

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

“Fruit” = transformation into the image of Christ, and His character. ie: being truly alive.

Just as Jesus lived in complete dependence on the Father, we must live in complete dependence upon Christ.

“Abide” – this word means to stay or remain, like staying at your house. Our branch must stay connected to the Vine.

Only Jesus can live the Christian life.

* He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. Colossians 1:15

Our purpose is to glorify God, by bearing His image and tapping into His life.

Often we conclude "Because I'm trying to obey, God must love me." But Jesus tells us to "Abide in His love." This means we draw upon His love as a never ending stream of living water. His love is something we receive, not something we earn.

John 15:6-17

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

One of the results of our union with Christ is intimate prayer.

v.9 To "Abide in Jesus" is to "Abide in His love."

There are 3 results to abiding in Jesus and His love:

- 1) Joy*
 - 2) Love for Others*
 - 3) Friendship with Jesus.*
- These are the "Fruits" that God desires.*

At the end of the day it's about loving each other. That's what living by the life of Christ both empowers and demands.

It is true that "Abiding" is something we must do by faith, but it is also true that God has made it so that we will abide and bear fruit— He "appointed us to bear fruit that abides." Your spiritual growth is a fact that God ensures, while at the same time it is something we strive towards.***

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

4. To "abide" or "stay in Jesus" means to constantly draw on the love of God through Jesus. Change occurs in our lives through the new inner dynamic of Christ's life in us, not through moral or mechanical means (changing behavior).

Has most of the "spiritual growth" in your life been through behavior change or through abiding in Christ? How are they different?

5. When Christ is our life source, and we abide in Him. We begin to become more and more like Him. We take on His character. This in turn glorifies God, because the more we image Christ, the more we image God.

Where have you seen the life of Christ growing in union with your life?

*he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Phil.1:6

* for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Phil. 2:13

** work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Phil. 2:12

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

6. What situations in your everyday life cause you to lose sight of abiding in Christ? How could these situations actually be used to help you abide in Christ and his love?

7. Re-read John 15:11-15. Jesus tells us 3 results that come from abiding in Him: a) Joy, b) Love for Others and c) Friendship with Jesus. In what ways are you personally experiencing these fruit?

8. Re-read John 15:16. Jesus has appointed us to bear fruit that abides. How can knowing and trusting that your transformation is the work of God bring rest and peace to your heart?

9. Read Ephesians 3:14-19. In John 15, Jesus tells us to abide (dwell) in him. In Ephesians 3:17 Paul says that Jesus dwells in us through faith. He also says that the love and fullness of God dwells in us (3:18-19).

How do these two passages work together?

Important: What we talk about when we talk about the

FAITH

Faith never focuses on itself, it is focused on the object of our faith—Jesus himself.

A.W. Tozer describes faith this way: “Like the eye which sees everything in front of it and never sees itself, faith is occupied with the Object upon which it rests and pays no attention to itself at all. When we are looking at God we do not see ourselves—blessed riddance. While he looks at Christ the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him. It will be God working in him to will and to do.”*

As we move forward in our study of the indwelling life of Christ, we will see that His life in me keeps me completely focused on him. I am not focused on “faith” or “spiritual experiences,” for these things are not ends in themselves. Rather faith and my spiritual experience IS my beholding of Christ. My looking to him, the author and perfecter of my faith.

Over time this faith becomes a habit of the soul, an almost effortless spiritual impulse that is not even aware of its own existence.

Faith becomes the impulse or instinct by which we live all of life. It becomes our natural response to all situations. Faith opens up our spiritual eyes and perceptions.

This is not faith that manipulates God into doing something (ie: If I believe God will make it happen, then God will make it happen). Rather it is faith in what Jesus has done and what he promises he will do. It is trusting my union with him and his life.

As we learn to stand on the finished work of Calvary, the Holy Spirit will begin to faithfully and effectively apply the finished work of Christ to every area of our lives through faith. That’s when we can truly say, “Not I, but Christ.”

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live, I live by faith in the one who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal.2:20

Faith allows us to depend completely on God while obeying God completely.

Faith is the link between the Holy spirit and our souls. It is what keeps God from violating your humanity—He won’t control you to get what He wants. Instead he created us to respond to all of life by the Law of Love. In love we let God control us through the indwelling life of Christ. What satisfies God is seeing you walk by faith in every situation recognizing your dependence upon Him, and resting in Him while obeying Him.

And without faith it is impossible to please God... Heb. 11:6

OUR UNION WITH THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

In John 15, Jesus tells us to abide in him and in his love. Ultimately we are united to the life of Jesus. His life becomes your life. His death is your death. His resurrection is your resurrection. His glorification is your glorification. His suffering is your suffering.

Let's take a minute to look more closely at the life of Jesus.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

God became man. Jesus stepped down from the privileges of heaven and humbled himself so He could be known by us and know us. He understands us and sympathizes with us. Jesus came to make us truly alive, truly human. The incarnation tells us that when we can't understand life, we know that God understands us.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

God not only became human, but He also lived a perfect human life. He kept the Law perfectly and completely. He satisfies all of God's requirements for us. He is judged as righteous. This takes the pressure off of us to be perfect— he did it for us. Now Abiding in Christ's life means resting in his perfect life.

3. The Death of Christ.

Jesus died as a human. He took the punishment for sin that we deserve: death and separation from God. His blood covers every sin that we have ever committed. Our union with his death kills the old man inside of us. Your death with Christ makes it so that you are free to not sin.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

Christ was raised from the dead to new life in a spiritual body. In this he was vindicated by God. His sacrifice for us was accepted and he was judged as righteous. Our union with his resurrection brings us this same new life.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

Jesus lived and died knowing that one day he would return to glory. And not only himself but he would bring us with him. This gave him great joy. Jesus' ascension and glorification seated him next to God in a position of great honor. He is still human, yet perfect and gloriously holy. One day Jesus will be completely victorious over all sin and death.

The key to living by the indwelling life of Christ, is to apply the truths of his life (Incarnation, Perfect Life and Suffering, Death, Resurrection, Ascension) to our lives. To see our lives unified or abiding in His very life. We've got to keep going back to these truths or we won't make any progress in the Christian life. It will be a "Christian life" without Christ, based rather upon a system of self salvation.

Let's look at the life of Jesus again, this time applying His life to our lives.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

God understands our problems. He has been tempted just like us. He has felt pain, agony, rejection, heart break, loss, hunger, sorrow, joy, relief, anger, love. Jesus was willing to go to great lengths for this love he has for us.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

We don't have to strive for perfection. We should not expect a "better life" but instead we should rest in the perfection of Jesus and embrace his suffering. As he suffered, we will suffer. We can stop covering up our shame and embrace Jesus' righteousness.

3. The Death of Christ.

We are forgiven of every sin by Christ's death for us. And by our death with Jesus we are freed from the desire to keep sinning. We are no longer slaves to sin. Our own death on the cross and our daily death to the deeds of the flesh are what bring real resurrection and glorification.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

The power of sin is broken by our new life in Christ. His life is now ours through faith. We are completely loved and accepted by God. Now the power of all idols can be broken by resurrection power. Beyond this, we also have received the power to love and live for him and by him in this world.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

Our life is not reduced to this life. There is much more to come. And God is looking forward to us being fully in His presence. In the meantime, Jesus and the Spirit are praying for us and pouring His character into us, preparing us for the day of our glorification with him. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places— now! Not just someday. This gives us the greatest of hopes for the future. And immense joy in this life now!

Back to 1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

These gospel truths should cause us to repent of our idolatry and then move forward in Christ's power to enter into the lives of others with grace and truth. The gospel humbles us, and places us on the same footing with all others.

LIVE 5: Living By Christ's Life - Galatians

THE BIG IDEA

The Christian life is the life of Christ in us. Just as Jesus revealed God to the world, we reveal Jesus to the world. This happens as we freely love one another.

I. Christ Revealed In Me

Read Galatians 1:3-6, 11-17

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

This is the Gospel: The substitutionary death of Christ delivers us from this present evil age while not removing us from it.

Any faith that is not rooted in Christ's life in us, or our union with Christ, is a different gospel.

Jesus was revealed to Paul at his conversion on the road to Damascus. — see Acts 9:1-19.

What is God's purpose for revealing Jesus IN us? So that we might share Him with others.

The ESV translates the Greek as "to me" but it is literally "in me."

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. The normal Christian life is Christ in us.
2. Re-read Galatians 1:16 and the side note. Do you think about your life as a revelation of Jesus Christ? In what ways can your life reveal Jesus?

2. Christ Lives In Me

Read Galatians 2:11-21

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. 13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.

20 I have been crucified with Christ.

It is no longer I who live,

but Christ who lives in me. *Hallelujah He lives in me!*

And the life I now live in the flesh

I live by faith in the Son of God,

who loved me and gave himself for me.

21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Paul here is calling out the Jewish leaders, including Peter and Barnabas, who failed to live a life in step with the Gospel. But what does it look like to live a life in step with the Gospel? Paul will describe such a life in vs. 19-20.*

v.16= THE GOSPEL!

Live to God! Don't keep running back to the Law.

Our old "self life" (Adamic/Sin nature) is dead.

Christ does not live INSTEAD of me- Christ lives His life THROUGH ME. I maintain my unique personhood. I am still called to live my life.

When we go back to the law ("trying harder" to follow a checklist of right vs. wrong), we are living as if Jesus' death has no purpose.

*The Old Testament Law was given to Israel so that by it they might live** But here's the problem: to live by the law means you have to keep it perfectly. Why do we need to die to the law? Because when we try to justify ourselves by the Law, we are living by the self-life (which leads to death) and not by the indwelling life of God.*

I was literally but spiritually crucified with Christ (dead to the Law). Since I died with Jesus, the law and SIN have no claim on me.

I live by the indwelling life of Christ by faith. See page 25 for more on this faith.

Living by the indwelling life of Christ will produce this same love and sacrifice.

* Peter and Barnabas were withdrawing from the Gentiles because they were worried about what other people thought and wanting to get in good with a group of Jews that were actively subverting the Gospel.

** If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Deuteronomy 30:16

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

3. The divine life of God is IMPARTED (given) to us. We live by the life of Jesus.
4. Re-read Gal. 2:16. Since the law cannot bring life, it is no longer the controlling factor in our life. Rather, God's life is what compels and controls us.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

5. Galatians 2:20 teaches that we have the imparted life of Christ in us. Remember, his past is your past, his present is your present, his future is your future. How does this truth change how you view your own life?

Can you list three specific ways?

6. In what ways would a person that is controlled by the life of Christ look different from someone who is controlled by the Law?

7. In Galatians 2:20, Paul says, "I live by faith." How would you describe "living by faith" to someone?

8. Think about: Faith is trust in Christ and not ourselves, which gives us a spiritual understanding of life. It is a new spiritual impulse (p. 25) that makes us aware of the spiritual realm and the life of Christ inside of us and other believers. The result is new desires, new emotions, and new tendencies (i.e. Jesus' life).

Have you seen yourself living by this new spiritual impulse? What makes this idea difficult to grasp?

3. Put On Christ

Don't be a fool! Live by faith, not flesh.

When we hear the Gospel it releases the life of Christ in us thus "supplying the Spirit."

Christ living in me means that I have his righteousness and I am no longer under the curse of SIN. God's love and holiness perfectly meet in this exchange.

This happens at salvation: the HS unifying us with Jesus.

Read Galatians 3:2-6, 10-14, 23-29

2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— 6 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” 12 But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Right now you are either living by the Spirit (faith) or by the Flesh. We don't receive the life of Christ and then go back to living by works. We are justified by faith in the Gospel, and we are sanctified by faith in the Gospel.

The implications of “putting on Christ” in terms of Christ living his life through us are many: 1) Like clothing identifies someone, our identity is Christ; 2) Just as clothes are your closest possession, we are always in Christ's presence; and 3) Just as a body animates clothing, our lives animate the life of Christ. We now think and act as He would.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

9. Just like the Prodigal son put on the older brother's robe as it was given to him by the Father, we too have put on Jesus as our robe.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

10. How is “living by faith” (Gal. 2:20) connected to “you have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27)?

4. Christ Formed In You

We are the sons of God through the Spirit of Christ. Now, we allow the life of Christ to live through us as we cry out to Abba Father.

The elementary principles are those mindsets that keep us trying to earn our righteousness by being good: Eating from the Tree of Knowledge, not the Tree of Life.

Read Galatians 4:4-20

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years! 11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

12 Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. 13 You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, 14 and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. 15 What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? 17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. 18 It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, 19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! 20 I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

The life of Christ in you means letting God father you.

Christ's life inside of us means that we can know God, and, better yet, we can be known by God.

Here Paul uses a metaphor to describe Christ's life living inside of us— an embryo. It starts as a seed and grows over time until it takes shape ("is formed") inside of the womb.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

11. Re-read Gal. 4:19. Christ's life came into you and over time it is growing and taking shape in order to transform you into the likeness of Christ. What are the implications of this verse for discipleship?

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

12. Galatians 4:6 speaks of us crying out "Abba." How is crying out "Abba" a reflection of the life of Christ in us? How does it require faith?

5. Christ In Me Frees Me to Love

Read Galatians 5:1-15

1. For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

"yoke of slavery": the Law of Moses. If we're not careful, we can easily slip back into bondage when we fail to live by the finished work of Christ.

These words are a descriptive summary of the Life of Christ inside of us. My faith in the indwelling life of Christ energizes love. Neither moralism nor licentiousness can energize love because both are ultimately selfish.

"counts for anything" =to have power, to be able, or to be competent. Using our knowledge of right and wrong to approach every situation ("Is this RIGHT or WRONG?")...

"has no power," "is incompetent," "is not able." Our life is united with Christ's life, so much so that neither our moral exertion nor our moral failure counts for anything.

Are you serving from love and freedom?

The life of Christ inside of me brings freedom to live by faith not law. Faith produces loving service for all. Then, that loving service actually fulfills the law's command: love your neighbor.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

13. Re-read 5:1. Christ has set us free by giving us His life. We are no longer in slavery to sin and the flesh. This freedom is what God wanted for us all along!

14. Re-read Gal. 5:6. Unconditional love is the greatest result of Christ's life in us. God loves us not because of what we bring Him; He loves us simply because we are. That same love now flows from us to God and others— loving them for who they are (image bearers), rather than just for what they do for you.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

15. Read Galatians 5:6 and 13 again. How are freedom from the law and the ability to love connected? How does Jesus' life provide this freedom?

6. Walk By the Spirit

This is another way of saying "live by faith" or "live by the indwelling life of Christ."

Fight desire with desire!

The HS in me deeply wants the things of Christ.

But the flesh gives us competing desires. But even when we fall into sin, we can truly say "this is not the real me."

"Fruit" implies four things about our growth in Christ: it is symmetrical (all the fruit are connected), gradual, inevitable, and internal.

Passively, we are living by Christ's life and righteousness. Our flesh has been crucified. Actively, we daily put off the deeds of the flesh.*

Read Galatians 5:16-26

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 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.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

One of the results of having the life of Christ inside of you is the continuing battle between the flesh and the Spirit which rages in your soul.

The flesh (our selfish motivational system) thrives off the Law. Life is a daily struggle to either follow the indwelling Lord or place ourselves back under law; that is, self-righteousness.

These are the character traits of Christ. The life of Christ inside of us always produces fruit which changes our character into Christ's character.

"Keep in step" - to learn to walk/march by simple trial and error as we live our daily lives in worship of Christ and in dependence on him.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

16. Re-read Gal. 5:17. The desire of the Spirit is to exalt and desire Jesus—to find glory and beauty in Him. The life of Christ in us gives us these desires (p.8).

17. The Fruit of the Spirit come from our divine life source, Jesus. When his life is inside of us, it will produce this fruit.

Note that the word "fruit" is singular. This means that all of the character traits listed are connected. For example: you cannot call yourself gentle if you fail to be loving or self controlled. Since these traits all flow from the life of Christ in us, they all synergistically reveal his life in us.

* For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13

* Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Colossians 3:5

Fruit of the Spirit

1. *Agape* – love

Definition – To care for and serve a person for their good and intrinsic value, not for what the person brings you.

Opposite – Fear: self-protection and abusing people.

Counterfeit – Selfish affection. Rescuing someone but really rescuing self. Duty. Attracted not to person, but to how this person's love makes you feel about yourself.

2. *Chara* – joy

Definition – Delight in God and his salvation for sheer beauty and worth of who He is.

Opposite – Hopelessness, despair.

Counterfeit – Elation that comes with blessings, not the Blessor! Mood swings based on circumstances. Failure to sorrow while rejoicing.

3. *Irene* – peace

Definition – Confidence and rest in the wisdom and sovereignty of God more than your own

Opposite – Anxiety and worry

Counterfeit – Indifference, apathy, not caring about something. "I don't care."

4. *Makrothumia* – patience

Definition – Ability to take trouble (from others or life) without blowing up. To suffer joyfully.

Opposite – Resentment toward God and others.

Counterfeit – Cynicism. Self-righteousness. "This annoyance is too trivial to bother me": condescending.

5. *Chrestotes* – kindness

Definition – Practical kindness with vulnerability out of deep inner security.

Opposite – Envy. Unable to rejoice in other's joy

Counterfeit – Manipulative good deeds. "Right hand knowing what left hand is doing." Self-congratulation and self-righteousness.

6. *Agathosune* – goodness (integrity)

Definition – Honesty, transparency, authenticity. Being the same in one situation as another.

Opposite – Phoniness; hypocrisy.

Counterfeit – Truth without love. "Getting it off the chest" for your own sake.

7. *Pistis* – faithfulness

Definition – Loyalty. Courage. To have integrity with others, committed, utterly reliable. True to one's word.

Opposite – Opportunist. Fair-weather friend.

Counterfeit – Love without truth. Being loyal when you should be willing to confront or challenge.

8. *Prautas* – gentleness (humility)

Definition – Self-forgetfulness.

Opposite – Superiority: self-absorbed self-aggrandizement.

Counterfeit – Inferiority: self-absorbed, self-consciousness.

9. *Egkrateia* – self-control

Definition – Ability to choose the important over the urgent thing.

Opposite – A driven, impulsive, uncontrolled person.

Counterfeit – Willpower through pride or through more "acceptable" idols.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

18. The life of Christ inside of me means living from a new desire (5:17). How have you seen the desire for Christ replacing evil desires or re-prioritizing your other good desires?

19. Read Galatians 5:18. What are some ways you tend to put yourself back under law? What are some ways that you have put others under law?

20. Summarize the idea of "keep in step with the Spirit." How would you explain this to another Christian? What does it look like in our day-to-day world?

21. Think about: we don't stop sinning by trying to stop sinning. We stop sinning by following the desires of the Spirit (v.17), while keeping in step with the Spirit (v.25). That is, we live by faith and by the indwelling life of Christ.

Together we have learned much from the letter to the Galatians about how to live by Christ's indwelling life. How does this letter teach us to connect to Jesus' incarnation, perfect life and suffering, death, resurrection, and glorification?

Take some time to review this lesson and connect the truths of this book to your union with Christ's life. Review pages 26 and 27 if needed.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

3. The Death of Christ.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

Back to #1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

LIVE 6: Living By Christ's Life - 1 Corinthians

THE BIG IDEA

In 1 Corinthians we see how the life of Christ inside of us gives us the mind of Christ, so that, by the Spirit, we can understand the wisdom of God.

I. A Unified Church

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-13

1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,
 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

To be sanctified is to be set apart for a holy purpose. Our union with Christ saves us from death, but also purifies us in life.

Fellowship (koinonia) = shared purpose, experiences, and closeness.

We have fellowship with Jesus. Jesus' sonship is our sonship.

May Jesus' life unite us!

Living by Christ's life is all from grace!

Union with the Spirit of Christ means perseverance and perfection!

This question implies two truths: 1) the Church is the body of Christ and cannot be divided and 2) every Christian has ALL of Christ. Christ is not divided up among all the Christians— He is equally in each believer.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. Jesus is the source of our life, not just individually, but corporately as a church. Therefore a church should be characterized by unity not division.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

2. How does living by the indwelling life of Christ bring unity to a church?

2. Christ Is Everything We Need

The cross seems like folly because it goes against the knowledge of good and evil: figuring salvation out for ourselves vs. humbly receiving it.

We receive the life of Christ as the power and wisdom of God. Ideas, theories, and plans do not bring us life; rather, life comes from a person. Jesus is our life, power and wisdom!

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, 30-31

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

As Christians, we must see that the Cross is wisdom and power, because it takes us out of the realm of the flesh and all of its self-salvation schemes, and places us in complete need of Christ and His life inside of us.

Yes!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

3. Re-read I Corinthians 1:30. We don't get power and wisdom, we get Christ, and He IS power and wisdom. How do you make sense of this? How can a person be power and wisdom from God?

3. The Mind of Christ

"Secret and hidden" (musterion). This was a common word in the false religions of that day. It refers to truths previously hidden until a divine revelation.

The indwelling life of Christ lets us know the "depths of God."

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined,

what God has prepared for those who love him" — 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

It has always been God's plan to share His glory with us. The indwelling Christ allows for the sharing of this glory.

There are three kinds of people: the "natural," the "spiritual," and the "fleshly". Only someone with the life of Jesus in them can understand spiritual truths. A Christian can be "fleshly" (see 3:3), but a non-Christian can't be "spiritual" without receiving Christ's life.

The natural man cannot judge the spiritual man.

This is taking a step backwards from living by the indwelling life of Christ. To behave only in a human way is to deny your spiritual instincts and to live by the flesh.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

With Christ as our reference for everything, we can now make sound judgments.

You see life the same way he does.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Division is a clear sign that we are not living by the indwelling Christ, and instead are acting like "mere humans."

Only God, by the power of the indwelling life of Christ, can cause growth in us.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

4. Worldly wisdom is pretentious and self affirming. Jesus is our source of not only life, but of wisdom. God's "secret and hidden" wisdom is the gospel of the crucified Jesus (2:8), who humbled himself to the point of sacrificial death.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

5. Because we have the Spirit, we can understand the mysteries of God (the gospel). In what ways have you experienced the Spirit teaching you the "wisdom of God" through the gospel?

6. How does division in our church prove that we are behaving like "mere humans," (3:4) rather than having the "mind of Christ?"

4. The Temple of Christ

"You" here is plural—the church collectively is God's dwelling place.

The world's wisdom is idiocy to God. And living by the indwelling life of Christ will seem foolish to the world—it is an "upside down" lifestyle of self-sacrifice.

When two married people "become one flesh," they are one yet retain their individuality—they are two yet one.*

The HS in you ministers the life of Jesus to you. Now your physical body is the spiritual dwelling place of God himself!

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 21 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

"Temple"—here is the inner sanctuary: Holy of Holies.

We are God's dwelling place, regardless of how messed up we may act.

God has given everything in the universe to Christ and therefore to us. Living by Christ's life means seeing everything as a gift from the Father.

Christ is joined with your spirit, yet you retain your individuality. You are two yet one. God's Spirit speaking to you will still sound like you—but if it is from Christ it will always lead to self forgetfulness and love.**

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

7. We are God's temple. His life is inside of us. We are "one spirit with Christ" (6:17). Do you see yourself this way? What are the implications of being one spirit with Christ?

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

8. Re— read 6:17. Being one spirit with Christ means you are "two yet one." In what ways have you experienced Christ's life in you, yet you retain your individuality?

* I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

** Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. 1 Corinthians 10:24

5. The Voice of Christ

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in every-one. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

A person can only truly recite the creed "Jesus is Lord (master)" by the Holy Spirit. Why? Because only by the indwelling life of Christ will you ever really desire Christ as master instead of demanding to be your own master?

It's really cool that the life of Christ manifests itself undivided in each of us, but also in the church as a whole!

Paul equates the Church with Christ himself.

*"Jesus is Lord" was a creed for the early church. This is the greatest affirmation of Christian freedom.**

"You in the water, and the water in you." Every Christian is baptized into the Spirit and made to drink the same Spirit at conversion. We remain individuals yet unified in Christ.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

9. Review 12:7-11. Notice how many of the spiritual gifts involve speaking—speaking by the Spirit. The indwelling life of Christ WILL speak through you.

10. Spiritual gifts are the manifestation of the life of Christ inside of us, and gifts are for the common good.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

11. How do spiritual gifts show that the life of Christ in us is meant to be a corporate/communal experience, not just an individual experience?

* For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are at the Lord's. Romans 14:8

6. The Love of Christ

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

As you read this amazing chapter, every time you see the word LOVE, replace it with "THE LIFE OF CHRIST."

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

12. Love is now the spiritual impulse of our lives (p.25). It is the outflow of faith. How is love the ultimate sign of the indwelling life of Christ?

7. Christ: The Life Giving Spirit

Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-45

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

Jesus became a "life giving spirit". Through his death (seed sown) and resurrection (seed grown), we too can have his spiritual life.

The indwelling life of Christ is a seed that is sown inside of us and grows into the fruit of the Spirit and the character of God. It also guarantees our resurrection one day.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

13. Think about it: Christ's resurrection and ascension resulted in His becoming a "life giving Spirit." At our resurrection we will be fully alive as he is.

Together we have learned much from the first letter to the Corinthians about how to live by Christ's indwelling life. How does this letter teach us to connect to Jesus' incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, and glorification?

Take some time to review this lesson and connect the truths of this book to your union with Christ's life. Review pages 23 and 24 if needed.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

3. The Death of Christ.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

6. Back to #1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

LIVE 7: Living By Christ's Life - 2 Corinthians

THE BIG IDEA

2 Corinthians is a letter that speaks about transformation through trials: being changed into Christ so that His life and power flow out of our weakness.

I. Beholding Christ

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. 3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, 13 not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. 14 But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. 15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. 16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

The "letter" is the OT law (such as the 10 Commandments).

This only brings condemnation through trying and failing to obey it.

The Spirit gives us the life of Christ= the LIFE of God himself inside of us.

Keeping the Law does not bring life, nor does it sustain life. Obeying it is the outflow of life.

We no longer turn to the Law, we turn to the Lord who gives us His indwelling life by the Spirit.*

The glory comes from seeing the grace of God when He gives us His righteousness.

Jesus lifts the veil so that we can see His true glory in all of scripture and beyond. We can behold his glory (v 18) spiritually.

We live in freedom from the condemnation of the Law. The Spirit in us gives us the boldness of Christ himself.

* You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. Romans 8:9

Throughout 2 Corinthians 3, Paul is referencing Exodus 34:33-35.*

"Image" takes us back to Genesis and man being made in the image of God. To be transformed into the moral and spiritual likeness of Jesus is to be fully human again.

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Our transformation is a process. This process occurs through suffering (Romans 8), and the everyday joy and pain of life. Like a flower unfolding, we experience each day "from glory to glory."

THIS IS IT! I will be transformed and experience the life of Jesus the more I behold Him! It's all about worship.

In 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Paul says "the Lord is the Spirit," two times. It is important for us to understand that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each a unique person of the Trinity. Jesus is not the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not Jesus. Yet at the same time Paul is using language that is quite fuzzy. Without the Spirit, we cannot receive the life of Christ; we cannot be transformed into Christ. The Holy Spirit ministers Jesus' life to us. Just as Moses sat with "the Lord" in a tent and started glowing*, we cannot be changed without the Holy Spirit who allows us to behold the Lord.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. We are transformed by beholding the glory of Jesus. The Spirit inside of us (Christ's divine life) is empowering us by ravishing our hearts with His beauty and glory. It overwhelms our desires and changes us from the inside out. It is His work inside of us, a work that we cooperate with, and it will not fail!

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

2. How does beholding the glory of the Lord actually change you? What are ways you behold the glory of the Lord?

3. Re-read 3:6. The indwelling life of Christ through the ministry of the Spirit is far more glorious than the ministry of the law, which only brings death. How does the Law kill? How does the Spirit give life?

* 33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. 34 Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, 35 the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him. Exodus 34:33-35

2. The Glory Of God In The Face Of Christ

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The gospel makes Jesus famous. He is Lord!

Christ is the manifestation of the invisible God.

He is the prototype of what all who behold the glory of Christ will become (see 3:18).

This word takes us back to Genesis. God wants us to image God.

The glory of God is seen in the person of Christ. To see Christ's glory in his death and resurrection is to begin to come face-to-face with God.

Just as God created light (Gen. 1:3) and it declared God's glory, we have the light of God's glory in our hearts (that is, the life of Jesus himself) His love, acceptance, respect, and affirmation.

This is the basis of us being a New Creation (5:17).

It is suffering that reveals glory; the glory of the life of Christ inside of us, transforming us, is most evident in suffering. We are transformed into the image of Christ through trial. The weight of affliction (1:8) cannot be compared to the weight of glory (4:17).

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

The inner self is the heart, or seat of will, emotion, thought, and affection. The inner self is renewed as we behold Christ (3:18).*

Even though we don't see Jesus we love him!

The things that are now unseen but will be revealed are Christ and the things of His Kingdom. These are realities that we can only understand through faith as we behold Christ more and more (3:18). That is, we gaze upon Him longingly and seek His kingdom. It is because of the life of Christ inside of us that we can do this. It is the resurrection power in us that gives us a hope for this life and into eternity. This hope brings faith, and faith brings love.**

* (Paul's prayer for our inner self) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:14-19

** for we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

4. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says that Jesus reveals the glory of God (see also John 1:14). How does Jesus reveal the "light of the knowledge of the glory of God?"

Remember: In Exodus 33:19, God equates His glory with His goodness. Goodness is the summation of all God's holiness and love.

God has shone this glory into our hearts (4:6). What do you think this means?

5. When we receive the life of Christ as a gift, we too can now image God as was intended from the beginning. This means taking on the character of Christ himself in loving self-sacrifice.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

6. Re-read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 4:4. How does the life of Jesus inside of us allow us to image God?

- Remember, imaging Jesus comes from beholding his glory (3:18)...

and...

- This happens in our hearts (4:6)...

- From one degree of glory to the next in the midst of trial (3:18, 4:17).

7. How do trials prepare glory for us (2 Corinthians 4:17, and Romans 8:18f)?

8. Re-read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How is faith (seeing the unseen) connected to the renewal of the inner man? How is it connected to living by Christ's life from glory to glory?

3. A New Creation

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The cross has made you flawless!

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

Fear (respect) for God and love from Christ and for Christ are what motivates us.

Self-sacrifice is the result of the life of Jesus in us—He gave his life away, and so must we if His life controls us.

Christians are part of the new creation yet to come. Paul is connecting our present to the future eschatological reign of Christ. In our lives, it has already begun.

As those with the life of Christ in us, we are His ambassadors. We share in Jesus' life, death, resurrection and His ministry of reconciliation.

Because "we are the temple of the living God." God's divine life lives inside of us, and you as an individual.

This is what allows the relationship with Him that He has always longed for. He is our God and we are His people.

We see everything differently because of Christ inside of us. This includes every individual we encounter. Every soul is an eternally valuable, immeasurably precious soul.

This happened once for all time.

This has ongoing results.

Because God lives in you, remember who you are. Be separate. Be holy. Be different. Be what you are, not what you used to be. There is no room for idols in the Christian's life. Why?

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

9. Re-read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Why is this verse sometimes called "The Great Exchange?" Can you explain what exchange happened on the cross?

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

10. Christians are the New Creation. That is how Paul saw the Corinthian Christians and us. How does this amazing truth change how we see everything in life?

4. Christ's Power In Our Weakness

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Christian life is not about getting stronger and stronger; it is about getting weaker and weaker. That is what the life of Christ inside of us demands – going lower still. Just as God's greatest power and glory were

demonstrated through the weakness and shame of Jesus on the cross and then being raised to life in joyous resurrection, we too must live our lives in this same way – through death and resurrection.

God said NO to Paul. He wants us to have what is best for us, which is Himself. Thorn removal wasn't best, faith in the life of Jesus was!

This is an extremely important truth about the indwelling life of Christ – we have his power inside of us, but

*this power is manifested through our weakness and our desire.**

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

11. Because we have the indwelling life of Christ, we can say that "when I am weak I am strong," and "my power is made perfect in weakness." How does Jesus' life and death demonstrate these two amazing truths?

How did Jesus' union with the Father empower him in the midst of weakness?

* For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God. 2 Corinthians 13:4

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

12. When have you seen God's strength made perfect in your weakness?

13. How does 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 contrast with the "Health and Wealth Gospel?"

14. Why is it hard for us to let others see our weakness? How can the life of Jesus be revealed through our weaknesses? How does this connect to "boasting in our weakness (12:9)?"

15. The Christian life is not about getting stronger and stronger, it is about getting weaker and weaker. What do you think about this statement?

The New Way:

Take a few minutes to review Book 1: LIFE chapter 9 and the New Way of the Spirit.

The Old Way was the way of equating our behavior to God's blessing. When we are good, God blesses us. It is living by a system where we do what we should in order to get what we want. First you decide what you want (God's blessing), then you figure out how to get it (obey God).

The New Way makes the goal the presence of God—relationship with Him. Knowing Him (which is eternal life—Jn. 17:3) becomes our highest goal.

Living by the life of Christ does not guarantee a better life, a blessed life, or an easy life. In fact it more than likely guarantees a life filled with hardship—incarnation, suffering, and death. But it is these things that bring the resurrection and glory of knowing God.

This is the truth of 2 Corinthians 12. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. His grace is sufficient. He promises us closeness to Him and an experience of His grace, not thorn removal. Now we can come boldly to God, because my life is not judged based on my performance, but on Christ's life.

Together we have learned much from the second letter to the Corinthians about how to live by Christ's indwelling life. How does this letter teach us to connect to Jesus' incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, and glorification?

Take some time to review this lesson and connect the truths of this book to your union with Christ's life. Review pages 26 and 27 if needed.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

3. The Death of Christ.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

Back to #1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

LIVE 8: Living By Christ's Life - Romans part 1

THE BIG IDEA

In Romans, living by Christ's life begins by embracing his substitutionary life and death and our own death and resurrection with him. Then the process of transformation into the likeness of Christ begins, as we live by the Spirit.

I. The Two Adams

Read Romans 5:12-21

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. 18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Because all of humanity was represented by Adam, "all sinned."

Jesus did not simply remove the penalty of sin; He obeyed for us, and secured for us His eternal life through His obedience.

Law brings death, but Grace "super abounds" to bring not just human life, but the indwelling life of Christ.

Adam is a type or picture of Jesus because both of these men will impute their life to others.

Jesus' work is different from Adam's:

1) Jesus' was an act of righteousness not disobedience.

2) Adam's resulted in "death reigning," but Christ's in us "reigning in life."

3) The result of Jesus' work is far greater— Adam's gave us what we deserve, but Jesus' gave us much more than we deserve (grace).

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. As our representative, when Adam sinned, his death was passed on to us. As our new representative, Christ's eternal, abundant, divine life is passed on to us. He is the source of our eternal righteousness (5:19).

2. Our Union With Christ

In these verses, we see the three parts of our sanctification:

- 1) **KNOW** that you are dead to sin.
- 2) **CONSIDER** yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ.
- 3) **PRESENT** yourself to God. Each of these hinges upon union with Christ.

Someone without the life of Christ inside of them has to sin. But those with the indwelling life of Christ can choose a deeper desire for righteousness, rather than sin.

Read Romans 6:1-14

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

We are no longer under the ruling power of sin.

The new life of Jesus in us!

Your old self/ego/sinful nature has died.

Your physical body as it is influenced by sin.

Don't focus on your sin, focus on Christ's life inside of you!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

2. Re-read Rom. 6:4. Our union with Christ's death empowers us to walk in the newness of His life inside of us.

3. If you are free from sin's control, you can present your body to God for righteousness. Focusing on a list of sins is not the key— rather, focusing on Christ's life in us (Incarnation, Perfect Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension) is what allows us to live as God's instrument. This is letting our union with Christ drive all that we do.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

4. What does knowing that you are dead to sin but alive to God in Christ mean to you personally? How is this truth changing you?

3. Our Battle With Indwelling Sin

Read Romans 7:7-25

7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. 10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. 13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

Most likely refers to Paul's human life.

Just as it did in the Garden, the law stirs up our desire to be our own god. Death follows.

7:14ff. Is Paul describing his life as a Christian? Because the verbs are present tense beginning in v 14, and because he has shifted from describing himself as "dead" to describing a struggle with sin, it seems that he is describing the Christian life.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

It is important to notice that even with the indwelling life of Christ in our spirit, we still battle with indwelling sin in our "flesh."

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

True change in your life occurs after you reach this place. Finally, the desire to love God overwhelms the desire to love God substitutes.

Yikes! Paul had to pick the sin we all struggle with: coveting – a worship issue.

The Law doesn't kill us, indwelling sin does.

Is Paul making excuses? Is he claiming that he is not to blame? No. He is showing us that we have a new identity in Christ ("no longer I"), but at the same time we still have indwelling sin ("but sin").

The Jesus in you delights in the law of God. When you know that Jesus has kept the entire law for you, and it can no longer condemn you, it becomes possible to delight in the law of God.

Law of my mind – my desire to do what is good.

Law of sin – indwelling sin's power causing a desire for what is not good.

War – We have been given Christ's life, which doesn't end sin in our lives yet, but rather moves us into a war.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

5. The indwelling life of Christ has not brought complete perfection, but rather a battle towards perfection (sanctification). A war rages between the law of my mind (wanting to obey) and the law of sin (not wanting to obey). What we will need is a "new law." - see Romans 8:2.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

6. In Romans 7, Paul writes about three different laws:

- 1) the law of the mind (v.23): the desire to do good.
- 2) the law of sin (v.23): the desire to do evil.
- 3) the law of God (v.25): obeying God's command.

Notice that these three laws lead to a battle in our minds and hearts. One of the signs of the life of Christ in you is this battle in your mindset. Where have you experienced the battle of these three laws in your own life?

7. Why is it so important that we experience Romans 7:24 ("Wretched man that I am!"), before we can really live from the abundant life of Christ?

4. Living By The Spirit

Wow! If we fail to understand this we fail to understand our entire life in Christ. God has nothing against you. This is a permanent reality; you do not move back and forth, in and out of condemnation each time you sin. God has nothing but acceptance for you now.

You are free from sin's penalty (v.1) but also free from sin's power.

How did God free us from the penalty and power of sin?

- 1) He sent Jesus.
- 2) Jesus condemned sin by living a perfect life.
- 3) He empowers the righteous requirement of the law (love) by the Spirit (being loved).

Read Romans 8:1-8

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

"Law" here means "force of power." You can't do good or live life on your own. You need to cooperate with the Spirit.

"Mind" = to be pre-occupied, to focus intently, to have the imagination captured. So how do I live by the indwelling life of Christ? I set my mind on Him. His life. His character. His love and sacrifice.

The Spirit of God=
The Spirit of Christ=
The Holy Spirit.
Living by the Holy Spirit
means being led by God
and Christ himself from
our spirit.

Although we are
controlled by the Spirit,
we are still plagued by
the flesh: sinful selfish
desires that compete for
control of our life.

The life of Christ in me
makes me a son of God.

We can live from
Christ's life as a son, or
we can revert back to
living as a slave.

Read Romans 8:9-17

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

No more fear!

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

You are righteous!

This is the ongoing
battle to kill the selfish
mindsets and replace
them with a mind set
upon the life of Jesus:
his life, death and
resurrection and how
it transforms us.

We call the Creator "Dad!"
We are God's kids!*

Living by the life of
Christ means we will
suffer with him, but
also we will be glorified
with him!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

8. Christ's life living in you means that you have a whole new mindset (the "Mind of the Spirit"). This mindset is preoccupied and focused intently on Christ.

9. How would you explain having the mind of the Spirit to someone? Remember that the mind of the Spirit is the mind of Christ. Read Philippians 2:5-10 to help you understand Christ's mindset.

10. Re-read Romans 8:10- "The Spirit is life because of righteousness." How are we made righteous (8:1-4)? How does our righteous standing allow us to have the life of Christ (8:11)?

11. Review question 6 on page 55 (the three laws). Notice in Romans 8:2 there is now a fourth law: the "law of the Spirit of life." This law is very different. This Law is a controlling force that turns our desire toward Jesus and not just doing good (the law of the mind) or doing evil (the law of sin and death). This Law is the very life of Christ himself controlling our desires by pouring love into our hearts. This Law now controls all that we do in Christ.

* But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, John 1:12

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

12. Law usually stirs up sin in us by creating a standard that we cannot live up to. How is the "law of the Spirit of life" different? How does it set us free (8:2)?

13. Review p.25. We've said that faith and living by the life of Christ should become an almost effortless spiritual impulse, or natural response to all of life. How does the having the "Mind of Spirit" connect to this idea? How does it bring peace [shalom— flourishing/ serenity] (8:6)?

14. How does living by the Spirit (from the life of Christ) cause us to "put to death the deeds of the flesh?" (v.13)

15. How does the "spirit of sonship" through the indwelling life of Christ differ from a spirit of slavery? How does sonship remove fear (8:15)?

16. Re-read Romans 6:14. How do the truths of Romans 8:1-17 demonstrate and develop the truth that we are "not under law, but under grace?" Make a list below of some of these truths from Romans 8:1-17.

Together we have learned much from the letter to the Romans about how to live by Christ's indwelling life. How does this letter teach us to connect to Jesus' incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, and glorification?

Take some time to review this lesson and connect the truths of this book to your union with Christ's life. Review pages 23 and 24 if needed.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

3. The Death of Christ.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

6. Back to #1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

LIVE 9: Living By Christ's Life - Romans part 2

THE BIG IDEA

Romans continues by showing us that living by the Spirit of Christ will conform us into Christ, and his life is manifested through community. It is in this community that we express Christ's life in genuine love for each other.

5. Conformed to Christ

Not "all things are good." Rather, God uses all things **FOR** our good, to conform us to Christ. Christians experience all the same things everyone else does ("all things").

But what is the "good?" It is not our circumstances or a better life. It is sanctification: transformation into Jesus' likeness.*

Read Romans 8:26-30

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Glory awaits!

We are adopted but also transformed into the "family resemblance." We are being changed into brothers and sisters of Jesus through the circumstances of life. One day we will all look like Dad.**

The Spirit prays for us from our deepest desires, when we don't know how to express them. This is one of the great benefits of having the life of Christ in us.

Not a superficial likeness, but a likeness of essence: a total transformation from inside out.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. Why would it be necessary to have the life of Christ in us, before we can begin to be transformed (8:29) into the likeness or image of Christ?

* And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

** "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." Hebrews 2:12

All Things For Good.*

A) "All things work together for good" should lead to gratitude and joy. This is because we know that without God, nothing would ever work out for good.

B) This truth should remove fear and worry when life goes wrong. We know that it actually hasn't gone wrong at all! There are no accidents.

C) This truth should lead to rest. We are not at the mercy of fate. The universe is run by our Father.

D) We can now make some sense of our suffering. We can see that all of life's troubles can be made part of God's loving purpose for us: transformation into Christ's character.

E) We can avoid two extreme views of suffering:

1) Despair in suffering- "Nothing good can come from this!"

2) Embracing suffering- "My suffering is actually a good thing."

The situation is not good; but God turns what is bad into good.

F) We cannot ruin God's purpose for us! All means all. Even our sin. Of course sin is always bad, but God even uses it for our good.

SIGNS OF LIFE.

2. How have you seen yourself being transformed into Christ in the past years? Months? Days? What "all things" is God using in your life now to transform you?

3. Which extreme do you tend towards: despair in suffering, or embracing suffering? How can Romans 8:28 correct your thinking?

4. Do you desire a "better life" or do you desire transformation into Christ's likeness?

* These thoughts are adapted from Tim Keller's book *Romans 8-16 For You*.

6. Confidence For Life

Notice Paul's use of questions to get us thinking about how to respond to our union with Jesus.

Read Romans 8:31-39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

36 As it is written,
"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

No more fear!

He gives us everything we need.

No condemnation!

Jesus leads us before the throne.

"Can anything separate us from God's love?" Answer: NO!

"More than conquerors" = we are super conquerors! It's all of grace, not our own doing.

No Fear!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

5. Because of the life of Christ in us, we have total victory in this life and the next, just like Jesus does! We can completely face life without fear. If you are not living life with full assurance and power, then you haven't fully known and considered the truth of free grace and justification through the life of Christ for you and in you.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

6. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. When have you felt unloved? How does this scripture help you know that you are loved eternally?

7. Is there a specific struggle in your life right now where the truths of Romans 8:31-39 can empower you? How would your situation look different if you truly believed that the life of Christ in you made you a "super conqueror" that can't lose God's love?

7. Christ's Life Through Community

Read Romans 12:1-21

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Totally at God's disposal.

Conformed: outer change

Transformed: inner change

Living by Christ's life means mind renewal – He captures our imagination! Then we will live like him.

We are corporately his body and depend on each other for spiritual growth and flourishing.

Christ's life in me means I have his ability (through spiritual gifts), to build up the body.

Remember in the Garden of Eden we gained the knowledge of good and evil. Now, through the mind of Christ and the gospel, we can use this knowledge to truly love, by hating evil and loving good.

A military word – to overpower. To repay evil with evil is to lose the battle before it's begun.

Wow, if only we could learn to do this by the power of the good news of Jesus our Savior!

* even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Ephesians 1:4

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

8. Re-read Romans 12:1-2. Being a living sacrifice, transformation into Christ's likeness, and mind renewal are all connected in these important two verses. Summarize how the life of Christ in you brings mind renewal and thus allows you to be a living sacrifice.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

9. Romans 12 connects the all the beautiful indicatives of being IN CHRIST to living in community as a church. Why is it impossible to live from Christ's life without "doing community?"

10. Tim Keller says, "Love is doing whatever it takes to give people whatever they need." Using Romans 12:10-16, make a list of what genuine love for each other looks like. Evaluate yourself based on this list. Are you a living sacrifice?

11. Using Romans 12:17-21, make a list of what love for your enemies looks like. Evaluate yourself based on this list. Are you a living sacrifice?

12. How does Romans 12 describe living from the new spiritual impulse or instinct of faith that produces love?

Together we have learned much from the letter to the Romans about how to live by Christ's indwelling life. How does this letter teach us to connect to Jesus' incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, and glorification?

Take some time to review this lesson and connect the truths of this book to your union with Christ's life. Review pages 23 and 24 if needed.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

3. The Death of Christ.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

6. Back to #1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

LIVE 10: Living By Christ's Life - Ephesians

THE BIG IDEA

Ephesians gives us some of the most precious statements about living by Christ's life, and at the same time, some of the most practical steps towards living by Christ's life. Ultimately, Christ's life in us is a life of love and light.

I. Blessed In Christ

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The blessings from our union with Christ are NOW – not just in the future. It's not only our "position" in Christ, it is our reality in Christ today.

Christ's atoning death.

Without forgiveness we could never have the life of Christ in us, and thus reconciliation with God.

Through the indwelling life of Christ in us, we reveal God's reality and God's glory; two things He has planned for us since the beginning.

Soak in the blessings of your union with Christ in this beautiful chapter.

God's goal is to conform us to the image of Christ so that we can be holy and blameless like him, and inherit the kingdom.

To be alive is to desire purpose. Our purpose is to be "to the praise of his glory."

Our inheritance is the joy of being in the family of God! To live by the Spirit is to reflect this reality!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

I. Christ's life in you is your union with him. Ephesians I details our life IN CHRIST. Make a list of all the blessings we have in Christ (from Eph. 1:1-14).

2. Our Hope In Christ

Read Ephesians 1:15-2:10

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious (inheritance) in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Chapter 2

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through (faith). And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The mark of the life of Christ in us is love.*

The Spirit reveals our hope in Christ: our inheritance of Christ likeness, and Christ's kingdom. This results in a power filled life from knowing Christ and his blessings (1:3-14).

Christ is the expression of God's purpose!

Christ is given to the Church.

Before: Living by the impulses of the flesh.

After: Living by the impulses of the life of Christ.

Living as Christ does in self giving love (2:4)

Grace directs God's love, power, and wisdom (1:17-18) through us.

Prayer is another mark of the life of Christ. If we love people we will talk to Dad for them.**

The power of resurrection life is in us. This same life made Jesus our destiny. This same power is in us, and is made effective in weakness.***

Head= Christ is our origin and our lord.

Body= The Church. We are full of his life.

You are united with the gospel— death, resurrection, and glorification!

We display the grace and kindness of God. That is what the life of Christ in us does: images God's grace through our good works.

Faith is the key to all we do. We have to trust in this life of Jesus in us. Without faith we cannot do what we are called to do— the good works that image God.

* These things I command you, so that you will love one another: John 15:17

** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13

***But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

2. Ephesians 1:15-2:10 talks a lot about our future and our hope. What is the connection between the life of Christ in us and hope?

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

3. Ephesians 2:8-10 connects grace and faith to good works. How does faith in the indwelling life of Christ produce good works? How is this different from doing good works to earn blessings?

3. Strengthened In The Inner Man

The inner being is your spirit made new in Christ,— the part of you that is joined to the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is devoted to making the power and presence of the risen Christ real to us. Our faith connects us to this reality.

Read Ephesians 3:14-19

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

We are strengthened through dependence; in our weakness he makes us strong.

We have the fullness of Christ's life in us which is the love of Christ. Now we can be fully alive and fully love.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

4. To be strengthened in the inner man is to be “rooted and grounded in love.” We grow by trusting God’s love for us in Christ. It is love that “fills us with all the fullness of God.” Christ’s purpose is love. Our purpose is love. Christ’s life inside of us is a life of love.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

5. How have you personally experienced being “strengthened in the inner man” by the love of Christ inside of you?

4. Growing Up Into Christ Together

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Our unity comes from the Trinity

These roles are the gifts that God placed in the Body. God gave gifts to the church to equip it for growth into the fullness of Christ= Love.

Jesus came to us, so that we might be filled with Him!

Marks of maturity ("the fullness of Christ"):

Unity and knowledge

Discernment

Speaking truth and love

Each part working

LOVE!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

6. Re-read 4:1-2. We are urged to live by the indwelling life of Christ (our calling). This will mean that humility, gentleness, patience, and love will flow out of us and result in unity and peace.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

7. Re-read Eph. 4:11-16. Why is it impossible to live by Christ's life and "grow up into Christ" alone?

8. What is the purpose of the church? How is it connected to the life of Christ in us?

5. Putting On The Life Of Christ

Non-Christians do not have the divine life in them. Christ's life in us frees us from self centeredness so that we can truly live, and explore, and feel, and pursue holiness.

Putting off the old and putting on the new are how we live from the indwelling life of Christ ("the likeness of God")- Be what you are!

vs. 25-32: We are to live as though we belong to one another. This is what sharing the indwelling life of Christ requires from us.

This is the same word as grace.

Read Ephesians 4:17-32

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The school of Christ has taught us the truth: He is meaning, purpose, and love. Our conduct must reflect His truth and love (4:15).

Most likely this refers to our human spirit. Our spirit is renewed as part of mind renewal* Of course the Holy Spirit is the one who renews our spirit and causes mind renewal through His ministering of the life of Christ to us.

The life of Christ in us should result in grace filled speech- don't make the Holy spirit sad with your "corrupt talk."

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

9. We don't live up to some external standard (Tree of Knowledge). Rather we are renewed from the inside out. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in our spirit; He is transforming us into Christ. This happens as we learn Christ (vs.21), put off the old ways of life (vs.22), and take on our new life, created in the image of God (vs.24).

10. Christ taught us to throw off the old, and He empowers us to throw off the old by giving us a New Life- His life! This new life is the imaging of God.** You are a new person responding to the person of Christ: His righteousness and holiness in you. The results are seen in vs.25-32.

* Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:10

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

11. In what areas of your life have you seen Christ replace something old with something new?

12. Why do we need to be “renewed in the Spirit of our minds (v 23)?” How does this idea connect to the idea of living by the life of Christ?

13. Verses 25-32 list many “Signs of Life.” Below make a list of the things that Paul says are the result of the “new self” and “true righteousness and holiness.”

14. How does Paul's list in verses 25-32 follow the “put off and put on” pattern? List some examples below.

15. How would you explain the idea of “Put off and put on” to a new Christian? How would you connect it to the life of Christ inside of you?

6. Walk In Love, Walk In Light

Read Ephesians 5:1-21

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,

and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

A child has his father's DNA, which transforms him into Dad's image. Yet at the same time he must learn to model his dad. He will become like the one he loves and respects— both by his nature and his choice (faith). Note that the imitation of God is seen in our kindness and forgiveness (4:32).

This language goes back to Leviticus. A "fragrant offering" was pleasing to God. Our lives of loving self sacrifice are what please God. They show that we are living from faith in the life of Christ inside of us— not our own good works.

Compare with 3:17— Christ dwelling in your heart through faith. We don't need artificial filling— we have Christ!

Live in love.

Notice how the imperative (walk in love) follows the indicative (Christ loved us).

Live in holiness.

The life of Christ in me is the light of life.* Light exposes and reflects. We live lives that expose sin, injustice, and corruption, while reflecting God's holiness, love, and truth.

The life of Christ in us, overflowing in love and light, will become a community of encouragement.

Wake up and live!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

16. Paul tells the Christians in Ephesus to "walk in love and walk in light." Why does it make sense that walking in love and holiness would be the two primary character traits of the life of Christ in us?

*In him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:4

17. The life of Christ in me means living a life of love. God is a giving God. To worship Him, is to love as He loves, in self sacrifice. By giving himself "for us" (5:2), Christ was a sacrifice "to God." This is how we too are to live life.*

18. Paul writes about our "walk" (how we live), three times (v.2,8,15). Review these three verses. How would you put all three ideas together into one statement about how we are to walk/live?

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

19. Where do you see the indwelling life of Christ producing love (5:2) in your daily walk (life)?

20. Where do you see the indwelling life of Christ producing holiness (light) in your daily walk (life)?

21. Is being "filled with the Spirit" (v.18) the same as "living by the indwelling life of Christ?" Why or why not?

22. Review the last three sections (Eph. 4:1-5:21). How is the life of Christ in us demonstrated through community. List some examples from these scriptures.

*By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 1 John 3:16

Together we have learned much from the letter to the Ephesians about how to live by Christ's indwelling life. How does this letter teach us to connect to Jesus' incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, and glorification?

Take some time to review this lesson and connect the truths of this book to your union with Christ's life. Review pages 23 and 24 if needed.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

3. The Death of Christ.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

6. Back to #1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

LIVE 11: Living By Christ's Life - Colossians

THE BIG IDEA

Christ is our life today and our prize for our future. His life inside of us changes our mindset and our motivation. Love, purity, and humility now characterize our new life in Him.

I. Understanding Our Position In Christ

Read Colossians 1:9-23

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *Everything we have and everything we are comes from Dad!*

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Paul prays that God will do two things: First, that they will be filled with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. Christ is this knowledge and wisdom.*

Second, that they would walk worthy of the Lord. This includes four characteristics: 1) bearing fruit, 2) increasing in knowledge of God, 3) being empowered, and 4) giving thanks.

To see Jesus is to see God. The life of Christ in us means we too can be filled with the fullness of God.**

We know our faith is genuine when it holds on to the gospel. At the same time, true faith will hold on.

We "endure" situations, and we have "patience" with people. Both are made possible as we trust our union with Christ.

Jesus' ministry was to restore the image of God in man. How? By living through us so we can image God.

Image= *eikon*. To see Jesus is to see God. He made the invisible God, visible.

These three words are synonyms. Because of Christ's life in you, sanctification is both a present reality and a future goal.

* To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27

* in whom [Jesus] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge Colossians 2:3

**and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:19

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. God has removed us from the power of darkness and placed us into the Kingdom of His one and only Son. We now share the family blessings, like redemption, forgiveness of sins, and inheritance.
2. Re-read 1:15-20. Living by the life of Christ means living by the life of the creator, sustainer, and ruler of everything in the universe. God is reconciling all things through Christ, and more specifically through Christ as He indwells us.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

3. How does it increase your hope knowing that the Christ of Colossians 1:15-20 is living His life through you?
4. Re-read 1:12. Spend some time giving thanks to the Father that he has qualified you, through the life of Christ, to share in his inheritance.

2. Christ In You The Hope Of Glory

Mystery= something once hidden, now revealed. The mystery of Christ's life in us is now made known to the Church.

When we see the word glory, we think of the presence of God himself.

Read Colossians 1:24-29

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Christ's life in us does not end our suffering. We will struggle as He did, until the end of this age. But this is for the good of the Church.

One of the most concise statements of the life of Christ in us— our hope for glory now and in the future!

Christ in us does not make us passive. We strive with Christ in our common mission.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

5. "Christ in you the hope of glory"- if Christ in us is our glory, then we don't need to seek glory through lesser things.

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

6. Re-read Colossians 1:28-29. Do you see discipleship and the maturity of others as your co-mission with God?

3. Alive Together With Him

Read Colossians 2:6-15

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

How did we receive Christ? By faith. That is how we live each day by faith in Christ's indwelling life, death, and new life in us.

Deity= divine nature not just divine essence. Jesus is fully God and fully man. See 1:19.

Our shared life!

The Law was an IOU against us. Now it is paid in full by the cross.

We are receiving a person who possesses us. Our faith is a personal relationship

"Rooted" – in the past/ "Built up" – ongoing in the present. Both these words use a land analogy to describe our inheritance and security in Christ.

See question 7.

Paul is using circumcision as a picture of the removal of our sin nature.

We win!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

7. Re-read 2:9-10. Christ is the fullness of God and He shares that fullness with us.* He is all we need to know and experience God. We participate in Jesus' life. God has flooded us with His love and life through Christ, and by the Spirit. We need nothing more than Him for meaning, purpose, and joy.

8. Go back and circle all the "in him" references. What happened to Jesus happened to us. By faith, we are alive together with Him (2:12). Now we truly live in love and holiness. Fully forgiven! Fully Free! Fully alive!

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

9. Re-read 2:14-15. Your debt to the Law has been cancelled. In what ways do Christians still try to live by the Law, instead of by the indwelling life of Christ?

10. We live daily by the same faith in the same Christ that saved us (v.6). Which truth from this passage really impacts your day to day faith the most? Why?

* For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1:16

4. Christ Is Your Life

Read Colossians 3:1-16

1 (If) when you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. *Christ, my all, lives in me!* 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 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. 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.

The "If" could be read as "Since."

In every way imaginable, Christ is our life: physically, spiritually, emotionally.

The glory of his indwelling life is now "hidden," but will be revealed when we see Jesus face to face and are then fully like Him.*

The truth of vs. 10 ("you have put on the new self"), results in us daily putting on the character of Christ. We do this from faith in our union with Christ.

Living by Christ's life means the internal overflow of peace and the external overflow of His word through teaching, admonishing, and singing.

Christ's life in us gives us a heavenly mindset. We now live from a new spiritual instinct: We see things the way Jesus does. This changes how we approach all of life. We see through the things of this world to Him. Everything is a shadow of His glory and being.

One day we will be completely like Jesus (v.4), because we have put off the old self and put on His life day by day.

A loving and holy community is the result of the life of Christ in us.

Peace is a group project.

"word of Christ" = the gospel**

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

11. The result of Christ being our life is a "new self" (v.10). Finally we can image God as He intended way back in the Garden of Eden. He is progressively renewing this image in us as we put on the character of Christ (v.12).

12. As the "peace of Christ rules in us (15)," and the "word of Christ dwells in us (16)," then this should create a completely new instinctual response (faith). Rather than thinking through a list of moral "do's and don'ts," we respond from our new nature— from the life of Christ.

* Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

** Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, Col. 1:5

13. Re-read Col. 3:17. If Christ is our life, everything we do will be “in his name.” That is, it will be in sync with His character. We are not living from a knowledge of good and evil, but from His life, His name, His authority and status.*

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

14. Re-read 3:1-2. Our new identity should change how we see everything, and thus change all our motivations for life. What does “seeking the things that are above” look like in times of prosperity? What does it look like in times of lack?

15. How do Colossians 3:15-16 describe a new faith response (an instinctual spiritual reaction) to life?

Where have you seen the peace of Christ rule in your life?

Where have you seen the word of Christ dwell in you, allowing you to admonish others in all wisdom?

16. Re-read Colossians 3:14. In what ways are you putting on love? How is the life of Christ inside of you allowing you to do this?

Below make a list of some of the different spheres of influence in your life and write a specific way that you can “put on love” in that sphere.

Ex: Sphere #1 Family– I can put on love by showing gratitude for little things.

Sphere #1 _____ -

Sphere #2 _____ -

Sphere #3 _____ -

*If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. John 14:14.

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26

Together we have learned much from the letter to the Colossians about how to live by Christ's indwelling life. How does this letter teach us to connect to Jesus' incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, and glorification?

Take some time to review this lesson and connect the truths of this book to your union with Christ's life. Review pages 23 and 24 if needed.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

3. The Death of Christ.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

Back to #1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

LIVE 12: Living By Christ's Life - Philippians

THE BIG IDEA

Christ is our life today and our prize for our future. His life inside of us changes our mindset and our motivation. Love, purity, and humility now characterize our new life in Him.

I. To Live Is Christ

Read Philippians 1:6-11, 19-27

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

19 For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

The life of Christ in us will be brought to completion at the return of Jesus.

Because of His life in us, we begin to feel as Christ feels. He lives through our affections.

Worship is always the end goal.

"Help" = supply. The prayers of the saints release the supply of the Spirit.

If "to live is Christ," then our life must be worthy of Christ and His Gospel. Our unity and striving together is proof of Christ's life and the truth of the Gospel.

The life of Christ in us results in love and holiness: the "fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ"

"Spirit of Jesus Christ" = The Holy Spirit is forming Christ in us.

We make the invisible Jesus visible, just as He made the invisible Father visible. Jesus can only live on this earth today through His body: the Church (you and me).

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

1. Re-read Philippians 1:6. The good work that is being completed in us is our transformation into Christ's image. This good work cannot fail.
2. Re-read v. 9-11. The life of Christ in us produces the "fruit of righteousness. Based on this passage and others you have studied, what would you say the "fruit of righteousness" is?
3. How would you explain Paul's phrase "to live is Christ" to someone you were discipling?

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

4. The indwelling life of Christ gives us a new instinctual spiritual reaction (faith), which is the "affection of Christ" (v.8). Where have you seen the affection of Christ flowing out of your life towards others?
5. In Philippians 1:20, Paul speaks of Christ being "honored in my body." Why is it important that if Christ lives through us, what we do with our body must honor Christ?
6. How does 1:27 stress the communal nature of the life of Christ living through us? What are the signs of a church that is "worthy of the gospel?"

2. The Mind Of Christ

Read Philippians 2:1-13

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

"Since"

We participate in the life of Christ by the Spirit. This participation brings encouragement and comfort from His love. This mindset allows us to put others first.

God and me working together towards my wholeness in Jesus!

This word means emptiness. We don't need to operate from emptiness because we are full of the life of Christ.

The life of Christ in us gives us the mind of Christ.

Jesus' life in us will take us from a mindset of willful sacrifice (death), which will ultimately lead to His exaltation and our worship of Him and Dad!

Respect and awe.

An ongoing effective work (see 1:6).

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

7. Philippians 2:12-13 seem to be a contradiction. But how do they show that we can only live from the source of our life— God himself?

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

8. Re-read 2:5-8. Here again, we see the faith of Christ, as he trusted his Father's plan and thus was able to humble himself and serve. How does this same mind set ("the mind of Christ") become a new natural faith response for us— a life of humbly serving others?

9. Re-read 2:3-8. In this passage, Paul is saying "don't live from your emptiness, but rather empty yourself like Jesus." How do you make sense of that paradox?

10. Where in this passage do you see the communal nature of the indwelling life of Christ playing out?

3. Christ The Prize

Read Philippians 3:1-14

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is spiritual circumcision. The Old Man has been removed and replaced with the life of Christ.

Knowing Christ intimately is my prize. Gaining Him is my goal.

Christ's life in us brings resurrection power but also shared suffering. We share in Christ's victory and also his ministry of self sacrifice. We are transformed into His likeness through death and resurrection (physically and spiritually).

We are not living from the knowledge of Good and Evil. We worship from the Spirit and find our glory in Christ's life. We cannot live the Christian life in our flesh; only Jesus can, and did.

Christ's righteous life in us does not come from the law, but from faith in His person and work in the Gospel.

Oh, that this may be my heart's deepest desire.

We're not perfect yet because we don't fully know Christ yet—but one day we will. On this side of glory we press hard toward knowing Christ and his life in us.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

11. Philippians 3:9 gives one of the clearest statements of the gospel in the New testament— “not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

How does knowing that we are perfectly righteous through faith alone in Christ alone empower our desire to know Christ and serve others?

12. How would you explain the seeming contrast of being righteous through faith in Christ (v.9) and not being perfect yet (v. 12).

THE SIGNS OF LIFE.

13. Philippians 3 offers us one of the most overwhelming examples of a man whose greatest desire was to know Christ and to see his life bonded to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Re-read v.7-10 and really soak in the meaning of Paul's words. As we conclude this study take a few moments to explore your own heart's desire for Christ as your prize.

Do you long for Him?

Do you long to make His life visible on earth?

Is He your greatest treasure?

Do you strive towards knowing Him more and more each day?

Do you desire Christ more than you desire His “blessing”?

Do you still see life through earthly eyes, or His heavenly eyes?

Do you see Him in the faces of the people around you?

Are you cultivating a relationship with Him through faith or is it still works and law?

14. Re-read 3:13-14. Moving forward, in what ways will you press towards the prize of knowing Christ and letting his indwelling life flow through you?

Together we have learned much from the letter to the Philippians about how to live by Christ's indwelling life. How does this letter teach us to connect to Jesus' incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, and glorification?

Take some time to review this lesson and connect the truths of this book to your union with Christ's life. Review pages 23 and 24 if needed.



1. The Incarnation of Christ.

2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

3. The Death of Christ.

4. The Resurrection of Christ.

5. The Glorification of Christ.

Back to #1. Our incarnation into the lives of others.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed the LIVE discipleship study. Our prayer is that you have more clearly seen how much God loves you and wants to give you His own life. He has desired and designed this since before creation and accomplished it through the person and work of His son, Jesus.

Living by the life of Christ is God's eternal plan for His glory. It is how He, the invisible God, is made visible on earth. It is also how you experience the true, and abundant life that Jesus offers. It is how you become truly human and image God as He intended.

Jesus desires this life for you so much that he offers it to you freely by faith. Now will you share the truth about this life with others? Will you disciple others, and "do life" with them?

This is our prayer for you as your pastors, that you would take the things you have learned here and "teach them to others also." And that you would experience the love of Christ in the most life altering way so as to let it flow out of you to others in all that you do and say.

Grace and Peace,

Your Pastoral Team

