

Christ IN You

2 Corinthians 13:5, "Christ in you..."

When Jesus was on earth, He was limited to just one geographical position - He could only be in one place at a time. But now, by the Holy Spirit, He dwells within each believer. When Jesus ascended this earth and went to be in Heaven with His heavenly Father, He lost His physical presence, but He gained "Spiritual indwelling" within every believer.

Galatians 4:19 the Apostle Paul writes, "My little children, of whom travail in birth again [again enduring a mother's pains] until Christ be formed in you," Christ "IN" you, takes place the moment you are born-again. But, being "formed into the image of Jesus Christ" is a process.

A good illustration would be - When a Queen Bee lays an egg, there is deposited a cell with the egg, providing food on which the larva feeds on during its development.

Christ is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. We have His Life the moment we accept Him as our Savior, but to grow and develop, we must "feed" upon His provisions.

Another illustration: When a mother hen lays an egg, there floats in its midst a sticky fluid - a germ of the chicken to be. It is only a very tiny speck to begin with, floating in a great quantity of viscous matter - thick, sticky, aversive glutinous! The mother hen turns the egg twice daily for three weeks. Each day there is less and less sticky matter and more and more of chicken. The chicken is "formed" in the egg. One day there is no more of the viscous matter - all is chicken! The life within the egg chips its way out of the shell and begins the romance of life in an entirely new realm.

How much, in the best of us, is sticky "self-life," and how little of Christ? It is as we yield to God's Word, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit - "Reckon our self dead to sin, and alive to Christ" (Romans 6:11) - that makes it possible for Jesus Christ to form His Life within us.

We need to say as Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20)

We become possessors of Christ's New Life - the Life of God! His divine Life is implanted within us at the new birth.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, subjected to the most examination, tested to the limits, has proven to be the most established fact in all the history of mankind.

Christ's empty tomb - the testimony of His friends, who knew Him best - the testimony of His enemies, who could not deny that the tomb was empty, so they conspired a lie that His disciples stole His body - the Glorious Life of Jesus Christ Himself - all prove that the God's Word is an accurate account of Christ's resurrection.

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, through faith, there is a spiritual union that takes place. We receive this dynamic, resurrected, divine Life of Jesus Christ. It seems that the Holy Spirit has ransacked every possible illustration to convey to us

what took place when we are born-again. Jesus said, *"I am the Vine, ye are the branches"* We are told that *"We are members of the Body of Christ* (You can't get much closer than that!). God's Word us the marital figure – we are the bride, Jesus Christ is our Groom – such sweet intimacy and Oneness and he union of a marriage! 1 Corinthians 1:30 says, *"Ye are IN Christ"* Our whole being throbs with divine energy of New Life – the Life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The world seeks happiness, peace of mind and purpose in life. Christ's Life makes all of this possible for us. *"Christ lives in me!"* We are partaker of Christ's divine nature - His mind, His nature, His desires - He lives in me!

Christ died and rose again and, in His glorified body, ascended into Heaven. And, now, He abides in me – I am His proxy in my world!

The sad thing is that many Christians are scarcely conscious of the indwelling presence of Christ Jesus. Romans 6 tells us that we must recognize that we are crucified with Christ . We appropriate the crucifixion to our soul-life with Christ's crucifixion.

How does the process of *"forming"* our soul-life into Christ's Life within? We must submit to God's Word in the circumstances of life – the environment, frustrations and disappointments of our life – Let Christ be Lord! God will *"wean"* us from our old life of self-pleasing – to be conformed to the image of Christ. God may even draw from us some cherished object of love. He may place us among uncongenial people – in order for us to despair of *"self"* and draw our resources in Christ Jesus.