

The Epistle To The Galatians¹

No Longer I, But Christ Living in Me and Not Nullifying the Grace of God (**Gal.2:20-21**)

I Not an Exchanged Life (The Old "I" and the New "I")

- A. The truth that Christ lives and we live Him out does not mean that we so are useless and pitiful that we have to **exchange** our life for Christ's life.
- B. Our **old man** has been crucified with Christ. (**Rom.6:6**)
 - 1. Therefore, the "I" that is crucified in Gal.2:20 **is** the old "I", i.e., the old man. All Christians have both an old "I" and a new "I"
 - 2. The old "I" has nothing of God in it and has been terminated, crucified with Christ-therefore, "it's no longer **I** that lives."
 - 3. The new "I" lives. The new "I" is the old "I" that has become new because God as life has been added to it; it has received the divine life. The new "I" came into being when the old "I" was resurrected. This happened at regeneration, the new birth. When you are born again you are **not** annihilated or destroyed-you become a new creation!

II Living with Christ

- A. Christ is not living instead of us. We are not erased or obliterated with Christ taking our place. "Christ in me" means that it is in us that Christ lives (**Gal.2:20**)
- B. The Lord Himself told us, "Because I live, you shall live also" (**John14:19**). Christ lives in us by causing us to live with Him. Christ does not live alone. Rather, he lives in us and with us. We continue to exist (in the resurrected "I") with the Triune God
- C. While in the old tree, we lived in our old "I", but then we were cut away from the old tree, i.e., our old man was crucified
- D. Then we were joined into the new tree and the life we live, as a new "I" is lived out through the new tree. We are now living by the life of the tree into which we were grafted; it is a mutual abiding life. We the branches live through the life of the vine and the vine lives its life through the branches. (**John 15:4-5**). We don't have two lives, we and Christ have one life and one living (**John 15:4-5, Phil.4:13, 1Cor.6:17**)

III Living Christ

- A. The natural person, "I", is inclined to keep the law that "I" might be perfect (**Phil.3:6, Rom.7:22**)
- B. God wants me to live Christ that God might be expressed in me through Him. (**Phil.1:20-21**)
- C. To keep the law is to exalt it above all things; to live Christ is to make Him the center and everything to us! (Remember the Pharisees)
- D. The law was meant as a caretaker to keep us for Christ (**Gal.3:23-24**), not as a model to emulate.

IV By Faith in Christ (**Gal.2:20c**)

¹ Outline and materials based on the *Life-Study of Galatians* by Witness Lee, *Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California, May, 1984*. Any inaccuracies or errors, in the outline above, are the sole responsibility of the adopter of these materials. - D.M.

1. Our living Christ is by the faith in (*lit.* ' of') Christ, the Son of God (**Gal.2:16, Act3:16**) It is the faith of Jesus Christ in us that has become the faith by which we believe in Him
 - a) Faith in Jesus Christ denotes an organic union with Him through believing. This result from the believers appreciation of the person of the Son of God as the most precious One
 - b) As the Son of God, Jesus gave Himself for us because He loved us (**Gal.2:20d**).
 - (1) As He was presented to us as the One who loved us so much that He was willing to be sacrificed for us, He became precious to us and infused us with faith.
 - (2) The love of God works in us to infuse us with the faith to live Christ and to live unto Him (**2Cor.5:14-15**)
 - c) The faith is not our faith in Him, like trust in Him. The faith in Him is His faith in us. It is infused into us to organically connects us to Him and imparts God's life into us, making us one with Him. (**1Cor.6:17**)
2. The divine life is the spiritual life in our spirit and lived out by the exercise of faith stimulated by the life-giving Spirit (**1Cor.15:45**)

V Grace in the New Testament

- A. Grace came when Jesus Christ came full of grace and reality (**John 1:14**) and as grace) He was greater than the Law. (**John 1:17**)
- B. As the Son of God Living in Us, He is grace to us and greater than the Law
 1. To go back to the Law is to reject this grace, the very Son of God Who now lives in us. This is to nullify grace.
 2. Not only Paul's epistles but the book of Revelation emphasizes grace at the start and at the end. (**Rev.1:4, 22:21**)
 3. Grace's work in us is God's complete answer to our problems. By grace (Christ): we are redeemed to deal with our fallen sinful condition; we are regenerated with Christ indwelling us to deal with our fallen evil nature; we have Christ living in and with us to minister His riches to sanctify us, transform us, conform us and glorify us; and we enjoy Him as our eternal portion as the living water and the tree of life
 4. To step or turn away from this process, i.e., not having Christ living in us in our experience, at any given time, is to nullify grace.

VI Stay in Grace

- A. Therefore stand in grace by: (1) Accessing it by faith (**Rom.5:2**); (2) Abiding in Him (**John 15:4-5**); (3) Enjoying Him (**John6:57b**); (4) Being One Spirit with Him (**1Cor.6:17**) ; (5) Walking in the Spirit (**Gal.5:16, 25**) ; (6) Denying the natural old "I" (**2:20**) ; and (7) Abandoning the flesh (**5:24**)
- B. Therefore, stand fast in the grace into which we have entered!