

What Does It Mean to Have Christ in You?

Colossians 1:26-27: *26 That is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*



By definition, being a Christian is all about following in Jesus' footsteps. It's all about learning how to "walk the walk" and "talk the talk" that he lived. This, of course, is no easy task as we are challenged with applying the life lessons he taught us 2,000 years ago to the very different lives we live in our present digital age. As different as this is, some things are very much the same. Jesus' promise to prepare a place for his true disciples in heaven is the same. His assurance that God's spirit would guide us is the same. His alerting us to the trials that come to us because we follow him is the same. Having Christ in us producing the hope of glory is the same. So, what does it mean to have Christ in us? Does this

happen automatically when we believe or is it the end result of a long journey of growth?

What exactly does it mean to have "Christ in you, the HOPE of glory"?

The immediate context:

Colossians 1:25-27: *25 Of this church I was made a minister... so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, 26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested... 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the **hope** <1680> of glory.*

Who doesn't love a good mystery? The mystery is *Christ in you, the hope of glory*.



This word for "hope" is not a wish. It is far deeper, clearer and more well-defined. It means to anticipate, to have expectation or confidence. It is not, *I hope it's going to happen*. Instead, it is, *I expect it to happen. I look forward to it happening*.

Hope: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1680 *elpis*; from a primary *elpo* (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence

The King James Version translates this as "hope" 53 times, "faith" 1 time

Any who are Jesus' true disciples must be focused on *transforming their lives by the renewing of their minds* so they can grow into having Christ in them (**Romans 12:2**).

In the first chapter of Colossians, the Apostle Paul describes much of what is behind this mystery. Paul's description of what having "Christ in you" means begins with a clear foundation.

Methodically reading the first chapter of Colossians will give us ten "Christ in you" steps.



Paul's "Christ in you" context:

Colossians 1:3-6: *3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 5 because of the hope <1680> laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth. (Remember, "hope" means to anticipate or to have an expectation.)*

We need to bear fruit and increase. *Christ in you* is not stagnant. The point of *Christ in you* is to bear full fruitage.

1. Christ in you: For Christ to be in us, we must first be in Christ!

It sounds like we are playing a word game! Instead, we are building a foundation based on Scripture.



What does it mean to be in Christ? It means we have been justified:

Romans 5:1: *...having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Justification here means an acquittal from the sin we inherited from Adam. Justification brings an amazing privilege. We have been "bought" from the permanent death sentence humanity received as a result of the sin of Adam's disobedience.

With this justification, other things begin to happen:

2 Corinthians 5:16-17: *16 ...From now on we recognize no one according to the flesh... 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

As followers of Christ, we are no longer judged by our Adamic sin. This is powerful!

We are removed from this penalty because God no longer sees us as those who were born in sin. *The wages of sin is death; the gift of God is eternal life (Romans 6:23).* He sees us as having already been bought by Jesus' sacrifice. He sees us as a *new creature*. He sees us differently than those around us.

To be in Christ is to stand in God's spirit as one called to follow Jesus. This is a calling:

Galatians 4:16-19: *16 So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth (in contrast to false doctrine) 17 They (false teachers) eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them. 18 But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you. 19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.*

Paul is focusing on the growth Christians must undergo to develop spiritual maturity.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. Justification and commitment to follow Christ begins the process of becoming a new creature. But here in Galatians he says, My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—within our new creature. Paul is saying we are already “in Christ,” now we need to grow towards forming Christ’s character within us. This is a process.

The whole concept of Christ in us is built upon movement forward. Coming to Christ is a starting point:

Luke 9:23: *And he was saying to them all, If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

The daily commitment to change is profound. We have to give up our will and our thinking to follow Christ and his thinking. We hear the saying, “Come as you are and stay as you are.” But Luke is saying, “Come as you are, but you will not stay as you are.” To be a true follower of Christ we must change.



There is a great contrast between being a true follower of Christ and being a social media “follower.” In the digital world, a follower “likes” and acknowledges the one posting. Being a follower of Christ has nothing to do with digital following. It is about heart transformation—following Jesus so we can learn to do what he did.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

This journey begins with the gifts of being called and receiving God’s spirit. Let us show our gratitude for these gifts by taking small “Christ in you” steps so our growth in Christ can be seen by others!

You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



These few words of prayer help us understand the difference between where we are and where we need to be going.

Having Christ in us begins with a powerful and undeserved gift. Isn’t that a great way for us to set our minds on honoring God?

**We now have a foundation because we know where to start.
What materials do we now build with so Christ can be in us?**

This conversation will lay out how to build a “Christ in you” life. In the first chapter of Colossians, the Apostle Paul lays out what the building materials are, along with the instructions for how and why to apply them. Our job is simple. Pay attention, learn, apply and then repeat over and over with a focus on growing into a mature reflection of Jesus!



Continuing Paul’s “Christ in you” context:

Colossians 1:9: *For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*

2. Christ in you means growing in knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

How do we do this? Let’s look at an example.

Jesus at 12-years old:

Luke 2:49: *And he said to them, Why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be in my Father's house?*

As a boy, Jesus was telling us where we need to be and what we need to do. It’s all about personal responsibility and staying close to God and His Word.

At 12-years old, he was seeking a deeper understanding prophecy and the Law. Even at this young age, he modeled for us the pursuit of knowledge, wisdom and insight into the Scriptures. Looking at his example, we ask, *What do I have to do?*

Know God’s word as best as we are able according to our capacity:

2 Timothy 2:15: *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

This is a huge responsibility because the whole Bible, not just the New Testament, is the word of truth. As stewards of this beautiful truth, we need to learn to handle it accurately.

This knowledge helps us apply God’s wisdom:

James 3:17: *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*

In what practical ways can we make this scripture apply to us? It is about God’s wisdom—the wisdom from above—versus what we think. It doesn’t matter what WE think; it matters what God thinks. We must apply and reflect the pure principles of His righteousness as shown in Scripture. We can have our opinions, but we must seek and apply godly wisdom.

Jesus showed us how to do this. We can learn how to seek knowledge, wisdom and understanding from this special 12-year-old. Jesus was the perfect young man about his Father's business, looking to understand more deeply the holy Word given to him to fulfill. All of this comes down to growing from being in Christ to Christ being in me.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

Knowledge applied with godly wisdom will bring understanding. To be filled with the knowledge of His will is to continually keep His will as our primary focus.



You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



We do this through seeking out knowledge, wisdom and understanding.



Continuing Paul's "Christ in you" context:

Colossians 1:10: *So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

3. Christ in you: Grow up to stand with a posture that enables us to walk worthily in Christ.

When we were kids, our parents would say, "Stand up straight; don't slouch!" When we stand up straight, we are more alert, focused and ready. That is the point of the posture of walking worthily in Christ.



What does that mean "to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord"?



We prepare by assuming the right "posture." To walk worthily is to emulate Jesus. God's spirit, received by Jesus at his baptism, came down from heaven like a dove resting on his shoulder. God's spirit gave him clear direction and guidance throughout his sacrificial journey.

We need to follow that same direction. We have the same source working in us that Jesus had working in him. It is very humbling:

Hebrews 12:2-3: *2 Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him (meditate on him) who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Fruitage comes by NOT growing weary and NOT losing heart!

Jesus is our inspiration. Every time we read these verses, we should realize all Jesus has done and endured for us and all of humanity. These verses do not say we have to be perfect. We are to *consider* Jesus; ponder him, think about him. We look to him with gratitude and say, *I can do my part.*

If we do get weary, we get up, brush off and try to move forward. That is what it means to stand with the posture that enables us to *walk in a manner worthy of the Lord*. We cannot do what he did, but we can follow along and do our best in this imperfect frame.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

Jesus' own endurance began with a season of immediate testing from Satan shortly after his baptism. Let Christ be in you as you rely on the inspiration of his victories as you face your daily testing.



You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



The inspiration of Jesus' victories motivates this simple prayer: *I see what he has done, his victories and his example. Help me grow so Christ can be in me.* These are our steps forward.



Continuing Paul's "Christ in you" context:

Colossians 1:11-12: *11 Strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

We have been *strengthened with all power* by putting in place that which will help us to gain strength. We take that strength and do more.

4. Christ in you: Grow into drawing upon the strength of God for our daily needs.

This means in every experience! When we don't think we need the Lord's strength is when we need it most. We must guard against being full of ourselves. Our actions must always be done in the strength of God's spirit working in us.

We commit to decisively live a life of sacrifice. We need to develop a daily awareness of our needs and practice relying on the Lord's strength to help us.

The final test of Satan in the wilderness sums up Jesus' own decisiveness:

Matthew 4:9-10: *9 And he (Satan) said to him, All these things I will give you, if you fall down and worship me. 10 Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.*



Jesus quoted Scripture to Satan to combat the temptations. When we emulate Jesus in this way, the Scriptures will also support and protect us when we are faced with challenges.

No shortcuts, no compromise, no questionable loyalty:

Romans 12:1-2: *1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that*

you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

We can't prove what the will of God is without having our minds transformed and renewed by God's spirit. This simple focus is how we get to "Christ in you." It is all about Christ guiding our thoughts, mind, actions and reactions. It is about growing from being in Christ, which is a wonderful start, to Christ being in me.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

Christ in you **REQUIRES** a transformed mind that guides our proving the will of God. This transformed mind is **THE** source of God's power and might in our daily experiences!



You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



The Lord has called us to this rare privilege in our world.



Help me to take the beginning of being called in Christ and to turn it into—by Your grace—the story You want my life to tell.

This proves that simply believing in Jesus is not enough. This mystery means so much more! Belief is a wonderful thing, but it is just a beginning. We need to make that belief come alive in our daily experiences.

"With great privilege comes great responsibility." The power of this saying echoes throughout the whole "Christ in us" process!

For Christ to be in us, we need to be transformed, walk worthily in wisdom, and draw upon God's strength. What else do we need?

What we have already focused on sounds like a lot, and it is. However, understand that the journey to "Christ in you" requires a lifetime of growing and regularly stepping up to the next level. Our next needed construction materials for character building will focus us on how to observe all that is around us with new eyes.

Let's continue to find the pieces the Apostle Paul has given us to construct our "Christ in you" life.



Continuing Paul's "Christ in you" context:

Colossians 1:13-14: *13 For He rescued 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.*

Our *redemption*—the forgiveness of our sins—comes from God's beloved son. The world in which we live is the *domain of darkness* still influenced by Satan. But through the gift of redemption, we have been transferred into *the kingdom of His beloved son* where we are in great light.

5. Christ in you: Grow into daily living in the light of redemption as we continually abandon the domain of darkness. This requires submission to the Father's discipline.



When I began my Christian walk, I had to cut off worldly things in my life so they wouldn't hinder my growth in Christ. I set up barriers and hedges to help safeguard me from my old ways.

It is so important to do this. We can't expect God to drag us toward maturity. God will correct us as we grow. It is wise to set up barriers and hedges to keep away our old life that caused detours, pitfalls and temptations leading back to the *domain of darkness*. A separation ensures past experiences and memories will not be continually right in front of our eyes.

Lasting obedience cannot be crystallized and trusted without testing! Even Jesus needed testing:

Hebrews 5:8: *Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered.*

Lasting obedience cannot be crystallized and trusted without testing! Even the apostles needed testing:

Luke 22:31-32: *31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*

Jesus and the apostles needed to be tested, and so do we. We likely have more work and testing to go through than did the apostles, and certainly, Jesus! Therefore, our testing may have to be deeper to dredge up the mess and clean it out. "Christ in you" means submitting to the Father's discipline through the trials He allows us to have.

Lasting obedience cannot be crystallized and trusted without testing. We need testing:

Hebrews 12:6-7: *6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES. 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline.*

Today parents are hesitate to discipline their children. We don't mean discipline by beating a child; rather, discipline is calling a child out when wrong is done and showing them in an instructive way, with firmness when necessary, correct behavior. This helps them learn to go from one way of thinking and action to another so they can grow up to be mature, thinking individuals.

The Father disciplines us because He loves us. He wants to teach us the right way to go. Sometimes we are hard-headed and need to be awakened and shaken up by our experiences. A wise human father disciplines out of love, and our heavenly Father does the same.

He is the example of what true fatherhood should look like. Lasting obedience cannot be crystallized and trusted without testing. This held true for Jesus and the apostles, and it certainly holds true for us. Testing develops “Christ in you.” It is about growing from being in Christ to Christ being in us. It is the process of changing from the old way of thinking and maturing into a higher way.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

To stay rescued from the domain of darkness we need to see the darkness for what it is and run to the light. Our testing experiences help us do this.

You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



Where there is an issue, when there is a problem, when there is a real threat, we need to run towards light. The world of darkness is a threat to our spirituality.

We have to function in the world around us, but we need to do so as reflectors of Christlikeness. This is how we survive. If we get stuck in a situation faced with a temptation, we run the other way. Run to the light.



Again, this simple prayer: Lord, you've called me to be in Christ. You have given me this great, great privilege.



Continuing Paul's “Christ in you” context: It's all about Jesus:

Colossians 1:16,18,20: *16 For by him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him. 18 he is also head of the body, the church; and he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he himself will come to have first place in everything... 20 and through him to reconcile all things to himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross... (This is the Christ that is to be in you!)*

This is a *Selah* moment; to pause and consider. These verses describe the Christ that is to be in us! It helps us see the magnitude of who he was, who he is and who he ever will be—this is the character likeness we are supposed to be developing.

6. Christ in you: Grow into recognizing and reverencing ALL that Jesus is.

Philippians 2:5-9: *5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus (let's pay close attention to Christ's attitude), 6 who...did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant... 8 ...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death... 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.*

Attention

Jesus chose to have an attitude in both heaven and earth of full submission to the Father's will.

- He was with the Father before, *and he emptied himself* of that—he left heaven to do the Father’s will by coming to earth, leaving all that glory behind. This is full submission.
- He *took on the form of a bondservant*, a human being. This is full submission.
- Then, he gave up all that he had as a perfect human being by *becoming obedient to the point of death*. This is full submission.

We see the attitude and then the action. It is one thing to say it, another to think it and feel it, but yet another to live it. We recognize and reverence all that Christ is. “Christ in you” represents having his attitude and following through with how he would have acted.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

To see, believe and appreciate all that Jesus is
is to energize the building of Christ in our lives.



You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



We energize the building of Christ in our lives by looking at him as our main focus and inspiration. And again, we pray this simple little prayer with these thoughts in mind so that it expands that prayer to even be so much more powerful.



Help me to grow so Christ in all he has done, all he represents, and all he has shown and given us and continues to give, will in some little, imperfect way show in my daily life.

Christ in you, the hope of glory is powerful inspiration.



Continuing Paul’s “Christ in you” context:

Colossians 1:21-23: *21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet he has now reconciled you in his fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—(By God's grace we have been reconciled, but it's conditional.) 23 if indeed you continue in the faith (the condition) firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the **hope** <1680> of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.*

We have been presented to God by Jesus *blameless and beyond reproach*. We are acquitted of our sin—justified through Christ’s death. But we can’t stop there. *If indeed you continue in the faith* is the point. We may come as we are, with all our warts and blemishes conferred on us by sin, but we cannot stay that way.



7. Christ in you: Grow into an unrelenting focus on your mission.

This requires stone-cold determination to endure to the end. We need to steel ourselves against all those things that come our way so we can press on:

Isaiah 50:6-7: *6 I gave my back to those who strike me... 7 ...I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed.*

This is perfect focus. It is the “game face” referred to in sports. There is one thing we need to accomplish. There is no obstacle we cannot overcome. We are to learn from these experiences. Jesus focused on his goal despite the obstacles.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

What we have seen of Jesus:

Loyalty + Humility + Obedience + Determination + Acquiescence = Victory.

His example is the blueprint for our daily lives!



You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



Jesus’ own words of determination while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane:

Luke 22:42: *...Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but Yours be done.*

Jesus did have his own perspective, but he always acquiesced to his Father's will. Looking to what Jesus did is how to get “Christ in you.” His life was victorious. He showed us what it takes to “be in Christ” so we can understand what it is like to have Christ in us.



Lord, You have called me to be in Christ. Help me grow. Help me change. Help me be different so Christ can and will be in me.

Children play a game called Follow the Leader and do whatever the leader does. As Christians, Follow the Leader is serious life business!

We now know about focusing on light, truly absorbing all of whom Jesus is, and developing an unrelenting focus. What are we missing?

Next, we concentrate on building up our actions to operate at the same level as our understanding. To have Christ in us is to have our mentality of self-sacrifice translate into practical and observable efforts of self-sacrifice. Wherever possible, this effort should be focused on others who are also building their own “Christ in me” lives.



Continuing Paul’s “Christ in you” context:

Colossians 1:24-25: *24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of his body, which is the church... 25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God.*

It's all about the benefit of the body of Christ. This is the most important point and why Paul preached! It was for the benefit of the body, not the accolades. This is what Jesus was about and how we must look at growing into this “Christ in you” thought process and activity.

8. Christ in you: Grow into regularly offering ourselves in service, not just occasionally or when we feel like it.

While on trial, Jesus put himself in a position to be crucified. Those accusing him could not find real evidence, so he gave them something with which to charge him in order to accomplish his mission.

This victory that Jesus had achieved would now become public. While on trial before his crucifixion:

Luke 22:66-70: (KJV) *66 (The chief priests) ...led him into their council, saying, 67 Art thou the Christ? Tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe: 68 And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. 69 Hereafter shall the son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God. 70 Then said they all, Art thou then the son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.*

He gave them the evidence they needed because they were trying to create stories to convict him. They were breaking God's law in all kinds of different ways. Jesus said, *I'll quote you scripture, and I'll show you something from the Old Testament prophecy that I am here to fulfill.*

It blew their minds. He did not have to do that. Three-and-a-half years of nonstop preaching and teaching brought him to this moment, and in this moment, he offered himself in service as a willing sacrifice.

There was no greater service than the sacrifice of his life.

Jesus showed us that willing and regular service grows into a consuming zeal:

Philippians 1:21: *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Do we believe this? Is it just an emotional thought or feeling we express? We should think, *I am willing to live for Christ, and that may mean dying for him. I am willing to take the steps to become that person.* This is what *Christ in you* is about. It is for the heart that is guided by God's spirit, God's grace, God's power, God's word and God's providence.

This is the heart that can die for Christ. It is a matter of following the powerful examples of what Jesus and the apostles did before us.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

Jesus was consumed by his zeal. Paul was consumed by his zeal. Let us follow their examples and also be consumed by our zeal!



You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



We talked about what's going on inside of us. Now we are talking about how this understanding is expressed on the outside, to those around us.

Lord, you have called me to be in Christ. Now, in the way that I live, please help me grow so Christ can be in me, and I can stand for those things that need to be stood for. So I can walk away when I need to walk away to the honor and glory for you, Father, not me. Whether I am embarrassed or not, whether I feel good or not, let me do what is right in Your eyes.



Continuing Paul's "Christ in you" context:

Colossians 1:26-27: 26 That is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the *hope* <1680> of glory.

When we read this scripture as our theme text at the beginning of this episode, it sounded like a great scripture. We have taken all this time to build these eight points to get to this point. But this is NOT the final point! There are two more.

The apostle is building a reasoning, a process, a way of living.

9. Christ in you: Grow in the understanding of the reality of our reward.

Jesus made this reward plain:

John 14:2: In my Father's house are many dwelling places... I go to prepare a place for you.

Wow! For you... in his Father's house! We cannot understand what it means to have a heavenly room in a heavenly house. We have no concept of such a dimension. We are too small. We can't get it—it is a wonder beyond wonders. It is not something we earn, but we work towards it by God's grace through Christ.

Jesus, in understanding the reality of the reward, literally at the end of his earthly life, put his destiny in the Father's hands. It was up to the Father to choose what would happen.

These are Jesus' last words:

Luke 23:46: And Jesus, crying out...said, Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT...

Jesus was saying, *I put my destiny in Your hands. It's up to You, Father.* Whatever happened, Jesus was at peace with it. Talk about faith and humility! We saw it at 12-years old, and we see it literally with his dying breath. *Into Your hands...* Whatever my destiny is, it is in Your hands. What great faith! This is our example. THIS is the Christ that we need to work toward being in us.

When Christ is truly in us, we stand in a most reverential and honored position:

1 Corinthians 2:7-9: *7 ...We speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood... 9 but just as it is written, THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.*

God predestined a heavenly bride in glory for His son, made up of his faithful followers, the body of Christ. What is offered to us is beyond our comprehension. We know that the reward is greater and more glorious than anything we could ever imagine.

This happens from the starting point of being in Christ—being a *new creature*, and then progresses to Christ truly being in us.



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

It is challenging to absorb the promise of glory we are given, and yet, we as those who are seeking to have Christ fully in us are called to do just that!



You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



We don't even fully know what that means, but help me to grow and understand because I see the example of Jesus in everything through all of eternity; past, present and to all of eternity. I know that is what I want to be in me.

Now for our last Paul's "Christ in you" context:

Colossians 1:28: *We proclaim him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

10. Christ in you: Grow into passing on to others the power of Christ in You and the unfathomable expectation of the hope of glory.

Jesus' final "Great Commission" before his ascension:

Matthew 28:19: *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and the holy spirit.*

*Make disciples of all nations—he did not say “make all nations into disciples.” We know that not everyone is called to follow Christ, or else Jesus would not have taught in parables. He is saying, *Find those disciples; draw them.* Our job is to not just have Christ in us, but to bring him to others—to spread the message.*

Am I continuously aware that others might need to be touched with the gospel of the kingdom, and am I eager to be a witness in words and actions?

Romans 10:14-15: *14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!*



Growing from Being in Christ to Christ Being in Me:

The proof of Christ being in us is in his ability to be seen in us. Let him be seen in our thoughts, our words and our actions—every day in every way!

Is Christ being seen in me? Let's examine our prayer one last time:



You have called me to be in Christ—help me grow so Christ can be in me.



Preaching the gospel is one of the most wonderful privileges we can possibly have. This is one of the culminating factors of Christ being in us.

When people see us and get to know us, we want them to see something Christlike that tells them, *This person is different.* This is what “Christ in you” is, and it needs to be developed in every aspect of our lives as best as we possibly can.

Let Christ be in you. Let us together share this incomprehensible hope of glory.

**So, what does it mean to have Christ in you?
For Rick, Jonathan, Julie and Christian Questions...
...Think about it!**

All scriptures cited are from the NASB1995 translation unless otherwise noted.



Next episode

Episode 1355: Why Didn't Paul Preach in Asia?



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Bonus Material and Study Questions

Recommended additional study:

Ep.1324: What Is the New Creation?

The profound results of God creating something never seen before

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1324-new-creation/>

Ep.1191: Are Christians Supposed to Convert the World?

Biblically clarifying WHY we preach the gospel to others

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1191-gospel-message/>



Parents and Bible class teachers, continue your studies on this topic with these short, animated videos for kids at [ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube](https://christianquestions.com/YouTube):

- What does the holy spirit do?
<https://christianquestions.com/cq-videos/videos-cq-kids/what-does-the-holy-spirit-do/>
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Study QUESTIONS

Ep.1354: What Does It Mean to Have Christ in You?

See:



<https://christianquestions.com/character/1354-christ-in-you/>

What does hope mean in **Colossians 1:25-27**?

What is necessary for true disciples to do in order to have Christ in them? (**Romans 12:2**)

1. **Colossians 1:3-6: *For Christ to be in us, we must first be in Christ!***
 - a. What does it mean to be justified? (Romans 5:1)
 - b. How does this justification make us different? (2 Corinthians 5:16-17, Romans 6:23)
2. **Colossians 1:9: *We must grow in knowledge, wisdom and understanding!***
 - a. How did Jesus set us an example at 12 years old? (Luke 2:49)
 - b. What are the characteristics of God's wisdom? Give practical applications of how you can apply these in your lives. (2 Timothy 2:15, James 3:17)
3. **Colossians 1:10: *Walk worthily in Christ!***
 - a. What will fixing your eyes on Jesus do for you? (Hebrews 12:2-3)
 - b. When have you gotten weary and discouraged? What can you do to improve this situation?
4. **Colossians 1:11-12: *Draw upon the strength of God for daily needs!***
 - a. How can we use Scripture to combat temptation? (Matthew 4:9-10)
 - b. How does having a transformed and renewed mind help us acquire God's guidance? (Romans 12:2)
5. **Colossians 1:13-14: *Abandon the domain of darkness – submit to the Father's discipline!***
 - a. Who needs testing to develop lasting obedience? (Hebrews 5:8, Luke 22:31-32)
 - b. Why does God discipline us? How do you see God's discipline in your life? (Hebrews 12:6-7)
6. **Colossians 1:16,18,20: *Recognize and reverence ALL that Jesus is!***
 - a. What are three ways Jesus humbled himself in submission to the Father's will? (Philippians 2:5-9)
 - b. What are 2 or 3 ways you can show godly submission and humility in your life?
7. **Colossians 1:21-23: *Have an unrelenting focus on your mission!***
 - a. What is the condition we must satisfy to stay justified before God? (Colossians 1:23)
 - b. Name 2 obstacles you are currently facing. Which characteristics of Jesus will help? (see graphic)
8. **Colossians 1:24-25: *Offer yourself regularly in service, especially to brethren.***
 - a. In what way is Luke 22:66-70 a striking example of service?
 - b. Are you consumed by your zeal? (Philippians 1:21)
9. **Colossians 1:26-27: *Grow in understanding the reality of our reward!***
 - a. What do 1 Corinthians 2:7-9 and John 14:2 mean to you personally?
 - b. Is there something in your life that Jesus' example in Luke 23:46 will help with?
10. **Colossians 1:28: *Pass on to others the power of Christ in You and the unfathomable expectation of the hope of glory!***
 - a. How does "make disciples of all nations" differ from "make all nations into disciples?" (Matthew 28:19)
 - b. How are you, personally, bringing "good news of good things"? (Romans 10:14-15)