**Three Keys to Christ Living in You**

*Galatians 2:20*

**Introduction**

1. **Galatians 2:20** is more than just a verse to remember. It is a concise, profound description of what it means to be a bondservant of Christ (**cf. Galatians 1:10**).
2. This verse is the mission statement of Christians.
3. It presents the paradox of a spiritual life in union with Christ – ***“no longer I who live…the life which I now live…”*** – but what does that mean? What does that look like?
4. It is important that we truly grasp the meaning of this verse, and that it is true for us personally.
5. The following are three keys to having Christ live in us.
6. Christ-Awareness
7. Christ is Known Through the Gospel Truth
   1. Revealed in the gospel Paul preaches – **Galatians 1:11-12, 15-16**
   2. Christ crucified portrayed in the truth – **Galatians 3:1**
   3. Preached gospel, tells the truth for Christ to be formed in the Galatians – **Galatians 4:13, 16, 19**
   4. Christ connected with system of righteousness by faith – **Galatians 5:4-5** – antithetical to justification by law (of Moses) – Law of Christ – **Galatians 6:2** – liberating – **Galatians 5:1** (**James 1:25 – *“perfect law of liberty”***)
   5. Christ lives in me = the word of Christ is active in me.
      1. ***“I live by faith in the Son of God”*** – **Romans 10:17**
8. **Galatians 2:20** not talking of a “personal relationship with Jesus” in the way the world portrays it – isolated, unique (to point of exact contrast) from any others who have a relationship w/ Jesus – i.e. not based on any universal standard, but fluid.
9. Peter had a lapse in Christ-awareness:
   1. Paul’s apostolic authority being questioned, his gospel being challenged – Judaizing teachers.
   2. Defense – apostleship through Christ (**1:1),** gospel revealed by Christ **(1:12**), separated to work by God didn’t confer w/ flesh/blood (**1:15-17**), God glorified in him – work in Syria/Cilicia, Judea heard **(1:21-24**), fellowship extended by Jerusalem pillars (**2:1-10** – Jerusalem counsel) (Peter included).
   3. Paul’s encounter w/ Peter presented as part of the defense of his apostleship and gospel – Paul’s gospel and authority validated through success of public rebuke of Peter who erred concerning it.
   4. **Galatians 2:11-17** – Peter’s hypocrisy (**vv. 11-13**), Paul’s rebuke – exposition of Christ’s gospel **(vv. 14-16**) – Peter’s actions not fitting truth.
      1. **(v. 13**) – actions of hypocrisy.
      2. **(v. 14a**) – not straightforward about truth (by actions – i.e. Christ not living in him in that moment, truth not active in him)
      3. (**v. 14b-16**) – actions not exhibiting justification separate from deeds of law. (Withdraw from Gentiles sign of conscious effort to keep the Law – **Galatians 5:4** – estranged from Christ)
      4. **(v. 17)** – if aware of Christ (doctrine) would know actions are incongruous – implicate Christ with sin.
10. Christ-awareness – a daily practical comprehension and application of the doctrine of Christ – **Colossians 3:16-17**
    1. Relationships (**cf. vv. 18-4:1**), apparel, entertainment, company (fellowship), activities (not sinful, but scheduling, assembly), time usage, etc.
11. Self-Awareness
12. **Galatians 2:18-21** – Paul continues his argumentation in the first person using the pronoun, “I,” 10x (in the translation) (among a few others).
    1. **(v. 18)** – what would happen if I…?
       1. Build again – Peter’s actions built again the system of justification by the Law of Moses which he had abandoned (tore down) by turning to Christ.
       2. Was he thinking of the implications/ramifications of his actions? – build again system of justification in Old Law, make self a transgressor (of Law of Christ).
    2. **(vv. 18-20a)** – what did I do?
       1. In turning to Christ – destroyed system of justification by Old Law, died to the Law.
       2. Are my actions now reflecting that realization/commitment?
    3. **(v. 20b)** – what am I doing?
       1. Allowing Christ to live in me – by faith (submission to gospel).
       2. Am I testing this?
    4. **(v. 21)** – what will I not do?
       1. Not set aside God’s grace – ONLY WAY TO BE RIGHT WITH HIM.
       2. But, though you would never… ***“if righteousness comes through the law”*** – what Peter’s actions indicated.
          1. PRACTICAL PROCLAMATION OF THE VANITY OF CHRIST’S DEATH.
13. **Sometimes we give assent to truth while not realizing that who we are and what we are doing is not conformed to that truth – lacking in self-awareness.**
    1. This is right (obligated) – but I am I really fulfilling it?
    2. This is wrong – but am I really innocent of it?
14. David – a classic case study – **2 Samuel 12:5-7** – parable of rich man taking poor man’s one ewe lamb instead of his own to prepare for stranger.
    1. Sometimes we need a ***“you are the man”*** moment to come to some self-awareness.
    2. Have we created an environment where such is impossible? (**cf. 2 Timothy 4:3-4**)
15. Jews – **Romans 2:21-24** – steal (time from work/family/Lord, taxes), adultery (lust, just a look?), abhor idols (sacrilege, covet, place things/people above God).
16. Self-examination – **2 Corinthians 13:5** – are your actions truly in line with the standard of the gospel?
17. I may not be blatantly guilty of sin, but am I fully living up to the expectations of the gospel in any given circumstance?
    1. Sexual purity? – not promiscuous, but…
       1. **1 Peter 4:3** – “lewdness” – *aselgeia* – “excess, licentiousness, absence of restraint, indecency, wantonness” (VINE)
          1. Licentiousness – from licentia ‘freedom’
          2. Would include fornication, but broadens to everything that would be associated, and that leads up to it.
       2. Immodesty, dancing, unchaste activity in dating, etc.
    2. Language? – not saying cuss words, but euphemisms?
       1. Euphemism ex: **John 11:11-14** – ***“sleeps…is dead”***
       2. ***“neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting” (Ephesians 5:4).***
    3. Parenting? – never would I abandon my child or show indifference.
       1. Instruction? – **Ephesians 6:4**
       2. Discipline? – **Proverbs 22:15; 29:15** (abandoned in this way?)
18. Self-Surrender
19. Paul’s language is of full surrender of self to the Lord’s will – **Galatians 2:20**
    1. Contextually – **(v. 19)** – died to law – **cf. Philippians 3:4-7** – things he once thought of as gain.
    2. Practically – **(vv. 12-13)** – Being aware of Christ and aware of himself Peter would have (should have) maintained his fellowship w/ the Gentile Christians and endured the disdain from Judaizers (**cf. Galatians 5:11; 6:12, 17**)
20. “All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live…Worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me, Jesus, take me now.”
21. We are devoted, spiritually minded, active, but have we truly FULLY surrendered ourselves? – **Mark 10:17-22** – rich young ruler was these things but didn’t fully surrender. (NOTE: ***“Jesus, looking at him, loved him”***)
22. Are you truly following Him? – **Luke 14:25-27, 33** – forsake all!
    1. Considers a ready willingness to part with whatever/whoever if following Christ would require it.
23. **We cannot rationalize/justify hanging onto things because we’re mostly doing good, or we’re better than this person, or it’s really not a big thing, etc.**
24. Not with Jesus fully, against Jesus – **Matthew 12:30** – may not think so, but Jesus gives as a glimpse of spiritual reality.

**Conclusion**

1. Do we truly understand **Galatians 2:20**?
2. Is Christ living in us? Are we willing to do what it takes for that to happen?