

## CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY

- A. Paul gave a tremendous description of Jesus Christ in Colossians 1.
1. The Redeemer providing forgiveness (Col 1:14)
  2. The Image of God (15)
  3. The Firstborn (preeminent: Greatest in importance, degree, significance or achievement) over creation (15).
  4. He is the Creator (16)
  5. He is the Maintainer / Sustainer of creation (17)
  6. He is the Head of the church (18)
  7. He is the Beginning of life after death (18)
  8. He has First Place in everything (18)
  9. He is the Fullness of God (19)
  10. He is the Reconciler of faithful men to God (20; Moses, Angels, Dreams and Visions were incomplete)
- B. At the end of chapter one, Paul gave a seven-word summary of the entire Bible.

## Colossians 1:27

27 to whom [saints] 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.***

1. Paul's mission, as an apostle, was to "***pre-sent every MAN complete in Christ***" (28).
2. But in verse 27 he tells us that "the hope of glory", "the hope laid up for you in Heaven" (5) is the consequence of "***CHRIST in you.***"
3. Paul understood this firsthand.

## Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but ***Christ lives in me***; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- C. So just what does it mean to have "Christ living in you"?
1. Is it like the new age philosophies, which teach that we are all part of a universal mind, whether we know it or not?
    - a. God's word indicates that we'll maintain the individual personalities that we have now throughout eternity.

- b. Abraham and Lazarus were two different personalities, and the rich man always had to ask questions to get answers.

2. Is “Christ living in you” like one of those nested dolls?

- a. No, a personal indwelling of Christ is not required for Him to live in you and give you the hope of glory in Heaven.

[So to understand how Christ lives in (His disciples, His church) let’s look at the account of creation.]

#### I. ORIGINALLY MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE

A. What did God say as He was preparing to form of humanity?

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, “**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish...birds...cattle creeping things ... and all the earth.”

- 1. God, then, placed His image and likeness in humanity in a way that was unique among all His other creatures in the created world

Genesis 1:27

27 **God created man in His own image**, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

2. There is a powerful truth presented in Genesis 1:27:

**The original purpose of humanity was to bear the image of God!**

B. So being created in God’s image does NOT mean that...

- 1. ...He must be a physical being (cf. John 4:24).
- 2. ...He’s given us control of the earth (1:26).
- 3. ...He’s granted us relationships (1:27, us)
- 4. ...He’s empowered us with problem solving skills.

C. No, rather, being created in God’s image means that...

- 1. **We are moral beings:**

- a. We are concerned with principles of right and wrong AND conforming to standards of behavior and character, which are based on principles that are true.
- b. Why are we like that? Because we were created in the image of God.

Genesis 2:7

7 Then **the Lord God** formed man of dust from the ground, and ***breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.***

Genesis 2:16-17

16 **The Lord God commanded the man**, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

- c. A moral being is able to receive a commandment from someone greater and to be accountable to that One.
- d. In chapters three and four, we learn that moral beings (Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel) can make both moral and immoral decisions.
  - They can obey God.
  - They can disobey Him.

- They can follow their lusts and pride.
- They can feel guilty.
- They can be antagonistic.
- They can suffer the consequences of disobedience.

2. But being made in the image of God does not only mean that we are moral beings; **we are also eternal beings:**

- a. We are capable of eternal fellowship with God (cf. Gen 2:22).
- b. This explains why **sin** is so terrible, because it **defaces the divine image within us**.
  - It corrupts our morality.
  - It deprives us of eternal fellowship w/ God.

D. Illustration.

- 1. God painted a beautiful picture of His nature in the creation.
  - a. In the Universe, we can see His eternal power and divine nature (Rom 1:20).

2. But before God finished the picture of His nature, He picked up the canvas and painted a self-portrait, which captured His **moral and eternal** nature.
  - a. When we sin, we take that unique, self-portrait of God and deface it until you can hardly see the strokes of the masterful Artist.
  - b. There is something in a child (humility, trust, purity) that takes us back to the original moral and eternal creation.

Luke 18:16-17

16 But Jesus called for them, saying, "Permit the **children** to come to Me, and do not hinder them, **for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.** 17 Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God **like a child** will not enter it at all."

3. Can you image taking a sculpture created by Michelangelo, pushing it over and breaking it up with a hammer. Or, using a knife to scrape the paint off of a portrait done by Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, or Monet?

- a. How do you think the world would respond to that? Outrage!

- b. People would say, "Put that person in prison (or worse). How could he do that to the artist? He poured himself into that masterpiece."
  - c. Then think of how personal it would be if that was your work of art.
4. But then one day the Artist Himself entered the picture in the person of Jesus Christ.
    - a. For the first time humanity saw the image of God in flawless clarity.

John 1:14

14 And **the Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and **we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 1:17-18

17 For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.** 18 No one has seen God at any time; **the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.**

Hebrews 1:3

3 And **He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature**, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

- b. Jesus was the perfect expression of God’s original portrait of humanity.
- c. The purpose of God’s redemptive work (in providing the forgiveness of sins) is to repaint **US** into **HIS** image, to make **US** look like **HIM** once again.
  - That’s “Christ in you, the hope of glory”!
  - That’s not just the hope of Christians, it is the reason we are human beings.

[So how does God repaint us into His image?

How does He restore our sinless moral state again and our eternal fellowship with Him?

Actually He doesn’t repaint us; He reconciles us and recreates us into His image.]

## II. REMADE IN GOD’S IMAGE

### A. He reconciles us:

Colossians 1:21-23

21 *And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,* 22 yet **He** [Christ] **has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond**

**reproach**— 23 *if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.*

1. To reconcile with someone means to restore the spirit of friendship.
2. Our friendship with God was severed the first time we sinned against His will.
3. But Paul said that our friendship with the One, ***in whose image was are made***, is restored through the death of the fleshly body of the Lord, Jesus Christ.
4. But reconciliation is a two-way street isn’t it? You’re not going to reconcile with some-one who doesn’t want your friendship.
5. So when is our friendship with God fully restored? How can we be made in His image once again? When is “Christ in you, the hope of glory”?

### B. He recreates us: (like in the beginning)

Colossians 2:11-13

12 **having been buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised up with Him through faith in the working of God**, who raised Him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions**, (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 3:27)

1. That's when reconciliation with God takes place; that's when we become, once again, like we were before we sinned: holy, blame-less and beyond reproach (Col 1:23).
2. Once we have been reconciled to God and recreated in His image, that' when He (and Jesus Christ) begins to live in us, filling us with the hope of glory.

C. He lives in us:

1 John 3:24

24 **The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him**. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 4:12

12 No one has seen God at any time; **if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us**.

1 John 4:15

15 **Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God**.

## CLOSING

A. "Christ in you" doesn't mean that He personally lives in you.

Colossians 3:1-4

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, **where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God**. 2 **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For **you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God**. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

1. It means that – amazingly – we are the ones who now make known the invisible God!
2. How? We reflect the character Christ revealed to us.
3. We think as Christ thought, say what Christ said, and do what Christ did. (This will be our ambition this year!)