

“IS CHRIST IN YOU?”

Al Brown

A recurring theme of the New Testament is for Christ to rule in the hearts and lives of His followers. One of Paul’s favorite terms was: “**Christ in you.**” In Galatians 2:20, he wrote,

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.

Again, he wrote: “**My little children, of whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you**” (Gal. 4:19). On another occasion, he wrote: “**Christ in you [is], the hope of glory**” (Col. 1:27).

“Christ in us” (ruling or controlling our lives) involves much more than the basic questions with which Christians are likely to concern themselves, such as: “Shall I go to worship—attend Bible class—visit—teach—be careful about what I say and do before outsiders?”

These are all important, but “Christ in us” goes deeper—all the way down to our attitudes and aspirations. It affects what we truly want to do and the basic desires of our hearts. If Christ is really in us, we are trying to mold our attitudes, desires, aspirations and priorities in such a way that they are identical with the way Christ was when He lived among men.

This is the grandest, most noble, and satisfying aim one can have. If he is to be successful, he must come to know Christ as He was when He lived in the flesh. This is basic. He must see Christ in all His simple—yet sublime manliness, dignity, and beauty. He was everything God could be and still be in the flesh. He was also all man ought to be in bearing God’s image.

Jesus was love—as only divine love can be, and this love absorbed every other trait. In dealing with men, love expressed itself in compassion, a forgiving spirit, humility, sacrifice, tenderness, kindness, and patience. Toward His Father, it expressed itself in faithfulness, meekness, righteousness, sinlessness, fidelity, courage, and obedience. His greatest desire was to do His Father’s will.

If we would have “Christ in us,” we must follow Him in all these ways. Hence, it is improper to ask, “How near to the ideal do I **have** to get?” This implies doing only enough on which to get by. The Lord’s attitude was the very opposite: the compulsion of love—the desire to please God. The proper question is, then: “How near am I to letting Christ rule my life, and how much closer can I get than I am now?” Is this attitude in you?~

Deceased