

john 15:4
A b i d e in **ME**



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 8
The week of January 17, 2021

Christ in You: Enjoying Our Union with Christ

A New Way to Be Human

Colossians 1:24-29

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Opener: What is one attitude or outlook you have embraced as you have begun 2021?

Read Colossians 1:24-29.

In this paragraph, Paul states that his role as an Apostle was to present the word of God to Christ's body, the church, and to specifically reveal the mystery of our union with Christ. The doctrine of our union with Christ teaches that Jesus unites His life to ours, so that He makes us more fully human than we were before. Our quest in life is to discover and live into the person God made each of us to be.

1. Take a moment and express in your own words what the phrase *Christ in you* means.

A New Humanity

There are literally hundreds of references to the believer's union with Christ. For instance, the most common way the Apostle Paul described believers was to say we are *in Christ*—approximately 160 times! The Apostle John uses similar terminology around 26 times. In fact, our union with Christ can be expressed in two interchangeable ways: *Christ in you* and *you in Christ*.

Take a few moments and read the following passages:

You are in Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

2 Corinthians 12:2

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

Ephesians 1:4, 2:10

1:4- even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love...

2:10- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Philippians 3:9.

⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

2. What is your overall reaction to those two constellations of verses?

Do they raise specific questions for you?

In verse 26, Paul describes our union with Christ as a mystery. A mystery is something that is hard to fathom. Some Christians are uncomfortable with mystery. We want everything fully explained and made plain. Yet, a profound mystery lies at the heart of the gospel.

3. In your own words describe what this mystery is that has now been revealed by God?
4. Augustine once said, “We heard the fact, let us seek the mystery.” What do you think he meant?

How does that apply to this stunning reality?

A New Identity

In order to know who you are, you have to know where you came from and what you were made for.

Read Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

5. What does it mean to have been made in the image of God?

As a result of sin, the image of God in all of us was marred. Therefore, the glorious image that was distorted needs to be restored. Jesus took on humanity to show us what human beings were meant to be. Jesus is the perfect image of God, not defaced by sin. When you are found in Christ, He sets you free to be who God intended you to be and not the self you are by nature.

Read Colossians 3:10-11.

¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

6. What happens when we receive Jesus as our Savior?
7. How does the truth of *Christ in you* redefine what it means to be human?
8. The same Jesus who was raised to new life is living inside of you right now! What difference will that make in your life tomorrow morning?

Sermon Notes: *A New Way to Be Human*

Colossians 1:24-29

THE
BIBLE RECAP
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, January 17 thru Saturday, January 23, 2021

Genesis 16-18, Genesis 19-21, Genesis 22-24, Genesis 25-26,
Genesis 27-29, Genesis 30-31, Genesis 32-34