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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

1 Timothy 3.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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1 Timothy 3.

Topics.

- The character of an overseer, a deacon and their wife.
- Great is the mystery of godliness.
- God was manifest in the flesh.
- Vindicated/justified by the spirit and seen by angels.
- Proclaimed among the nations (Gentiles).
- Believed on in the world and taken up in glory.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Paul told Timothy to pray for all who are in high positions of authority, he spoke of there being one mediator between God and men, about, lifting holy hands and praying, of women adorning themselves modesty and not usurping authority over a man. He speaks about Adam not being deceived as Eve and of women being saved through childbearing.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

To Desire the Office of a Bishop (Overseer) is to Desire a Good Work.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 ----- ¹This is a true saying, If a man desires the office of a Bishop (overseer in ESV) he desires a good work. ²A Bishop (overseer in ESV) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ³Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; ⁴One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; ⁵(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) ⁶Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

The word bishop comes from the Greek word (episkopos) and means overseer a superintendent, (i.e. a Christian officer in general charge of a church). It carries the idea of inspecting a person and selecting them for the relief of others and by implication it refers to a superintendent who not only has the responsibility of supervision, control and the management, but also to one who cares. The office of a bishop/overseer embraces the ministry of visiting for the purpose of relieving and protecting those they are visiting.

It is not wrong to desire to serve the Lord as an overseer, but whoever desires such a task must be: -

- Above reproach: meaning the secular world should not be able to bring any shameful accusation against them.
- The husband of one wife: some think this means that elders/overseers should only have ever had one wife meaning they should never have been divorced and remarried, but this idea would exclude men who had been divorced and remarried prior to being converted and that would be denying the power of God's grace in Christ's and the message of the Gospel which proclaims we are new creatures in Christ and all sins are forgiven so what does Paul mean? Paul says the husband of one wife whereas the Church of Rome says the husband of no wife, but from the beginning God had never designed this to be. Marriage is an ordinance from which no profession nor calling in life, prevents, even the

apostle Paul could have taken a wife had he so chosen (1 Cor. 9:5). Forbidding, to marry is one of the erroneous doctrines of the antichristian church (1 Tim. 4:1-3). Paul is not saying that ministers must be married (i.e. Paul was a single man) this is not what he means; but rather if a man does have a wife he must only have one at the same time and be faithful to her in every way.

Neither does it mean that he might not be married to more than one wife successively, but, being married he must have but one wife at once, not two or more, according to the common practice of those times, by a corrupt following of the practise of the Old Testament patriarchs who not only had many wives, but also many concubines. Paul in this discourse is saying this is not to be so in the Christian church. No bishop or elder can copy the ways of the patriarchs nor can they be a bigamist as the early Mormon Church taught (and may still do in some regions).

- Sober-minded: in this context means to be clear minded and clear in his thinking in contrast being given to fantasies, fables, myths speculations, assumptions and suppositions.
- Self-controlled: meaning they have the ability to control their own behaviour, especially in terms of reactions and impulses and is not given to showing any strong emotions such as anger or violence.
- Respectable: meaning well-thought by others.
- Hospitable: meaning they should be welcoming, friendly, generous, kind and sociable.
- Able to teach: they do not need to be a brilliant orator or public speaker, since they most likely will have others in their midst who they can use but they certainly should know the word of God and have some skill in teaching it since much of their ministry is visitation.
- Not a drunkard: obviously means they should not be given to drinking an excess of wine.
- Not violent but gentle: meaning they should not be forceful or aggressively severe toward others, but instead treat people with kindness and tenderness.
- Not quarrelsome: meaning they should not be argumentative, difficult, confrontational or hot-tempered.
- Not a lover of money: meaning they must not crave after worldly wealth, today this would apply to materialistic possessions, excessively expensive homes and gold watches, top of the range cars, designer cloths and such like things.
- Manage their own household with all dignity: meaning with self-respect and goodness toward his wife and children.
- Keeping their children submissive: meaning obedient and law abiding.
- They must not be a recent convert: no newly saved person should be given such tremendous responsibility for two reasons firstly to place so much honour and responsibility upon a new convert there is a very real danger that they will become puffed up with self-importance and a sense of superiority and secondly they have very little experience within the Christian community and the many problems that can arise and should they fall they give occasion to those outside God's Kingdom to speak against the Christian faith thus the reason it is not wise to appoint a new convert to the position of overseer of God's family(v6).

The words: -

- Fall into the condemnation of the devil (v6).

Do not refer to some evil demonic creature as portrayed by traditional religion and Hollywood movies, but to the unbelieving world. The Bible calls the devil the father

of lies, it is humans that lie, mostly for their own gain and lying stems from self, ego and pride etc., and is manifested outwardly in speech therefore the word devil is a name that embraces in its meaning everything humans do that is opposed to what is good and right and that brings shame to God and the name of Christ. Thus "The condemnation of the devil" (v6) in this context refers to the condemnation and accusations those outside the Kingdom of God would bring against the church because of the disgrace the bishop, overseer or elder has brought upon himself and the family of the Lord.

For further information concerning the devil, see the title: -

- Devil in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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The Overseer of God's Household.

The words: -

- If someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? (v5).

A bishop/overseer is not just a teacher he is the shepherd of the flock, who is not only responsible for training God's children in the right way to go, but also for their care and protection from spiritual harm thus the reason there is such high standards placed on a bishop/overseer.

NOTE: since the principle under the Gospel is one of submitting one to another in love and in the light of the following statements of Jesus and Paul it is clear that a bishop/overseer is not to dominate or see himself as superior and thereby lord it over those he oversees, but rather to view himself as a humble servant in submission to those he shepherds as they willingly submit themselves to him.

Jesus when teaching his twelve disciples said: -

- You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them, but it should not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be as your servant, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Matt 20:25-28) (Mark 10:42-45).

Added to this Paul in his letter to the Corinthians wrote: -

- Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith (2 Cor. 1:24)

And to the Ephesians he said: -

- The will of the Lord is that every brother and sister in Christ filled with the Spirit would submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:18-21).

Clearly no-matter what our position or how talented or gifted we maybe we should all be submitted to each other as under the Lord.

The Character of a Deacon.

1 Timothy 3:8-10 ----- ⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

Deacons: means to run on errands, it carries the idea of an attendant, a waiter at table or in other menial duties (especially a Christian teacher and pastor) technically a deacon or deaconess denotes a servant and minister.

- Dignified: means deacons should be honourable gracious and respectable.
- Double-tongued: means deacons should not teach something that they do not do themselves or make promises and not keep them nor should they be living a hypocritical life of pretence.
- Addicted too much wine: deacons should not drink an excess of wine. Notice it does not say, never drink wine, but not addicted to wine which would also include drinking to excess.
- Greedy for dishonest gain: means deacons should not take bribes or do underhanded deals to raise money for themselves or the church no matter how good the cause maybe.

Deacons must Hold to the Mystery of the Faith.

1 Timothy 3:9-10 ----- ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

Mystery in a biblical sense carries the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites. In ancient times the word mystery meant something unknown, but only unknown by those who were not initiated, like the 'Masons' they have all sorts of mysteries that the initiated know but those outside the sect don't.

The mystery that deacons are to hold fast to is that Jews and Gentiles are now united and saved to eternal life in Christ as the following verses show: -

- The *mystery was made known* to me (Paul) by revelation, as I have written briefly when you read this, you can perceive my insight into the *mystery of Christ* which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This *mystery is that the Gentiles* are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Ephes. 3:3-6). In the book of Colossians
- The *mystery hidden* for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints to them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you (the Gentiles) the hope of glory (Col. 1:26-27).
- He said to them, "To you has been given the secret (Mystery in KJV) of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables (Mark 4:11).
- We impart a secret (*Mystery in KJV*) and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. (1 Cor. 2:7).
- Of *the mystery* that I (Paul) am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it (*the mystery*) boldly, as I ought to speak (Ephes. 6:20).

Let deacons be tested then serve as deacons: here is wisdom in promoting anyone to a position in any organisation especially the House of God Paul says, "Let deacons be tested then serve as deacons" (v10) which means watch them as they go about their daily life and the duties they have been assigned to. Observe how they treat people, how they respond under pressure their faithfulness to the task they are given and the attitude they do it with, then if after observing these traits over time they have proved themselves faithful and reliable it is (in most cases) certain they will bring honour to the position they are being promoted to.

Let deacons serve if they prove themselves blameless: the word, "Blameless" (v10) in this context does not mean without sin if it was possible for anyone of us to achieve this glorious state while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose. Rather the word "blameless" as used here, means living a lifestyle that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible says: -

- Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation and he walked with God (Genesis 6:9) (Genesis 7:1).

Blameless in this context does not mean that Noah was without sin before God it simply means that he was a decent man, who only did good.

God Himself said: -

- There is none like Job a blameless and upright who fears God and turns away from evil? (Job 1:8) (Job 2:3).

Today we don't use the word blameless in this context, we would simply say, Abraham and Job were very good men, meaning they were kind, decent and treated others with fairness, compassion and justice. There has only ever been one man who walked on earth without sin before God and his name was not David or Job, but the Lord Jesus Christ.

Character of a Deacons Wife.

1 Timothy 3:11 ----- ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.

- Dignified: means a deacons wife should be honourable gracious and respectable.
 - Not slanderers: means a deacon's wife must not be a backbiter or one who demeans and speaks degradingly of others. In colloquial language it means they must not be mudslingers.
 - Sober-minded: in this context means to be clear minded and clear in their thinking in contrast being given to fantasies, fables, myths speculations, assumptions and suppositions.
 - Faithful in all things: means a deacon's wife should be authentic, truthful, loyal, devoted, trustworthy, dependable, reliable, dedicated and committed.
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Let Deacons each be the Husband of One Wife.

1 Timothy 3:12 ----- ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.

- The husband of one wife: (See the same title in the notes following (v1-7).
- Managing their children and their own households well: means a deacon's wife should be a responsible and loving mother to her children and able to keep her house in order.

NOTE: if we wait for people to fulfil these requirements to perfection before we appoint anyone to the position of overseer or deacon we will struggle to find anyone that qualifies for the positions since no-one (male or female) is going to fulfil these requirements perfectly because we are all full of sinful dysfunction and aberrations within our fallen and corrupted body.

The idea is that we promote those who most closely fulfil the guidelines Paul has given to Timothy and thereby lessen the chance of them bringing disgrace not only to God and the name of the Lord, but also to the reputation of the Christian faith.

Those who serve as Deacons Gain a Good Standing.

1 Timothy 3:12 ----- ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

During the early church era those who were appointed as deacons to help faithful overseers of the church were well respected by their brothers and sisters since it meant they were prepared to sacrifice their own leisure time for the well-being of the body of Christ. The reason Paul says, "Deacons gained great confidence in their faith" (v13) is because to be appointed as a deacon they had to be recognised by men of God who were already proven to be faithful to the body of Christ. It would be like having Moses, Daniel or Elijah promoting a person to be their right hand assistant instantly they would feel they are approved of by God, it is in this sense that Paul says, the deacon's faith is strengthened.

The Living God, a Pillar and Buttress of Truth.

1 Timothy 3:14-15 --- ¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.

Paul greatly desires to see Timothy, but realises that he may be delayed so he is writing this letter so that brothers and sisters who belong to Christ's family know how to behave.

Buttress: (ground of the truth in KJV) means a support, to fit securely and by implication immovable, unbending, settled and steadfast.

The church: (ekklesia) means a calling out, a popular meeting or assembly especially a religious congregation.

The church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth does not mean that those in the church should dogmatically and legalistically enforce the teachings of the Bible upon those outside the Kingdom of God, nor does it mean that every brother and sister should be forced to believe every detail of doctrine from Genesis to Revelation to be accepted into the congregation of the church.

Though it is certainly true that all teachings of the Bible contain truth the teachings that the church is to uphold are teachings that: -

- Proclaim Jesus is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world.
- Proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus and his return.
- Proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Proclaim the message of repentance and that salvation is in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Proclaim that no one can be made righteous or saved by adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions.
- Proclaim that everyone is saved by faith and trusting in God's grace for righteousness that leads to eternal life.
- Proclaim that God is creating in Christ one new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles.
- Proclaim the resurrection of the dead.
- Proclaim right behaviour and godly living.

These are the teachings the church is told to contend for because they are teachings that not only concern the Lord Jesus Christ, but also salvation to eternal life and living a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

Great is the Mystery of Godliness.

1 Timothy 3:16 ----- ¹⁶Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Mystery: means that which had been hidden or concealed, but the meaning as used here is not that it was mysterious in the sense that it was impossible to be understood, but that it had been kept hidden.

Godliness: literally means, holiness, goodness and righteousness, but in this context it refers to the plan of the Gospel which Paul states was the mystery which had been hidden from ages and from generations, and which is now manifest (Colossians 1:26)

Paul shines a floodlight on what the mystery of godliness is through the following six points: -

1. God was Manifest in the Flesh.

The words God was manifest in the flesh does not mean that God was actually Jesus (as some teach), but that Jesus not only perfectly manifested God's character, nature, mind, love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness etc., but also perfectly manifested God's power and his eternal word, plans promises and purposes while he walked on earth as a servant to mankind. Jesus was God manifest in the flesh in that he was the perfect image of God and that God by his word and his Spirit dwelt in Christ without limitations.

Jesus was the manifestation of God's word full of grace, mercy, truth and power appearing in human form on earth (John 1:14). Another way of saying God was manifest in the flesh is to say, "Jesus was in the form of God" meaning, he was the express image of the Spirit character and nature of God the Father, he perfectly manifested God's love, grace, mercy and power and the plans, promises and purpose of God on earth.

The character of Jesus on earth was an exact copy, image or form of the character of God the Father in heaven it is in this sense that Paul states, "God was manifest in the flesh."

Since the phrase, "God was manifest in the flesh" means the same as "Jesus was in the form of God" it should be noted that the copy of the form of the object does not become the object itself it is a copy or image of the object meaning Jesus though he is a perfect image of God is not God Himself. Philip says: -

- Jesus being born in the likeness of men and in human form made himself a servant" (Philip. 2:7).

Jesus was born of a woman, had the same body as all humans and was tempted as all humans are but without sin and even though he had all of God's Spirit and power available to him without limitation rather than exalt himself, he humbly made himself a servant of others setting the example for all those who belong to him.

NOTE: if Jesus was God (as some teach) he could not be tempted since the Bible says, "God Himself cannot be tempted" (James 1:13) nor could he die since God is immortal (1 Tim 1:17) meaning he cannot die.

2. Vindicated/Justified by the Spirit.

Vindicated/Justified: means to be proven right and blameless. The word Spirit here refers to God's Spirit also called the Holy Spirit since it is not possible to attach any intelligible sense to a phrase that read, "He was justified by his own Spirit." By God showing his approval of his Son Jesus was justified in the Spirit in the following three majestic ways: -

- a) By God descending on him at his baptism and testifying that he was the Son of God

- b) By his miracles and wonders since they were performed by the Spirit of God flowing through him and therefore were full proof that he was who he claimed to be since had he not been the Son of God, God would not have displayed such a clear and miraculous testimony to the claims he made of himself.
- c) Jesus was scolded as a sinner, and put to death as a common criminal, but was raised again by the Spirit of God, and so was justified from all the slanders, defamations and accusations with which he was accused. He was vindicated in that he was shown to be the Son of God by his resurrection to eternal glory and the right hand side of God and in this spectacular and majestic event his accusers (especially the Jews) were proven to be wrong in their judgment while Christ was proven to be right and thereby acquitted from all the charges alleged against him.

3 Seen by Angels.

Since the word angels simply means messenger it can refer to human messengers acting for God (i.e., prophets' apostles and disciples) or to the supernatural heavenly angels, but since no one need to be told Jesus was seen by men the reference here is to the heavenly host.

Peter, when talking of brothers and sisters in Christ told them that they are: -

- Being born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for them, to be revealed in the last time, but have now been announced through those who preached the good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven things into which *angels* long to look (1 Peter 3-12).

Angels worshipped the Lord they attended his birth, his temptation, his agony, his death, his resurrection and his ascension. The design of Paul's discourse in verse sixteen is to give an impressive view of the grandeur and glory of Christ who though despised by people, attracted and excited and deepest attention of the Heavenly Hosts.

4 Proclaimed among the Nations (Gentiles).

Jesus proclaimed among the nation's means that salvation was proclaimed to all mankind, this was one grand part of the glorious mystery which had been hidden in God that the Gentiles should be made fellow heirs with the Jews, and be admitted into the Kingdom of God. The Jews regarded the rest of mankind as excluded from the covenant mercies of God.

This was one of the principal stumbling blocks in their way in regard to the Gospel, because the Gospel gloriously proclaims that all nations are equal before God that that middle wall of partition that stood before Jews and Gentile is broken down and therefore salvation is now freely available to all mankind.

The Gospel proclaims that God has granted both Jews and Gentiles repentance, forgiveness of sins and redemption through the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Ephes. 2:14-15) (Ephes. 6:19) (Col. 1:26-27) (Col. 4:3) (Acts. 22:21)
(Rom. 3:22) (Rom. 10:11-20)

5 Believed on in the World.

The words believed on in the world obviously does not mean that all the world believed on Christ, but that he was received by all nations in contrast to Israel only. This is a most marvellous and striking part of the mystery of godliness, many of the Gentiles welcomed the Gospel which the Jews rejected.

Who would have thought that the world which lay in wickedness would acknowledge the one whose Kingdom is not of this world and whose doctrines are opposed to all the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions of human nature (self, ego and pride etc.) and who was not only crucified as a common criminal, but also despised and rejected wherever his Gospel was preached would believe he is the Son of God and take him to be their Saviour.

6 Taken up in Glory.

Taken up to glory clearly refers to the Lords resurrection this majestic world changing event was the crown of his exaltation. He was raised from the dead and had glory put upon his risen body, he ascended to heaven and was received there with a welcome by his Father and is set down at his right hand crowned with glory and honour.

SUMMARY: the term God was *manifested* in the *flesh*, *vindicated* by the *Spirit* seen by *angels*, proclaimed among the *nations*, believed on in the *world*, taken up in *glory* (1 Tim 3:16) refers to God who by the fullness of His *Spirit* (also called the Holy Spirit) dwelling in Christ was reconciling mankind to himself. The apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians wrote: -

- If anyone is in Christ, they are a *new* creation. The *old* has passed away; behold, the *new* has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to *himself* and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the *world* to *Himself*, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-19).

NOTES: concerning the Mystery Hidden for Ages, but now Revealed.

Paul wrote: -

- The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you the hope of glory (Colossians 1:25-27).

The word mystery in the following verse: -

- The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

Refers to the fact that the people of Israel believed that all the promises God had made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David regarding the coming Messiah the Christ and all that the Old Testament prophets had spoken concerning the promised seed and the King to come who would bless and rule the nations where restricted solely to the nation of Israel.

The Jews clearly believed that God's promises and the coming Messiah the Christ where for their nation and their nation only. Thus the mystery of Christ that was hidden in the Old Testament was not only that all the promises God made to Israel would also apply to the Gentiles, (because all God's promises are in Christ), but also that the Messiah the Christ would embrace the Gentile nations as well as the Jews.

The mystery of Christ that was Hidden in the Old Testament was that: -

- Both Jews and Gentiles would be saved by faith in Israel's promised Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The plans, purposes and promises of God would be revealed in Israel's Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ and would all be obtained through faith in him.
- Everything that is needed for salvation for Jews and Gentiles would be in Christ.
- The character nature and power of God and God's love, grace and mercy would be revealed in Christ to both Jews and Gentiles alike.

NOTES: concerning Christ in You.

Paul no-doubt in magnificent and triumphant joy tells the Colossian brothers and sisters that the riches and the glory of this mystery is that; Christ the hope of glory

is now in believers from all nations and not just the Jews (v27). The following are the three most common teachings regarding the majestic and awe-inspiring words "Christ in You."

- 1 The word, 'in' from Strong's Concordance means, in, by, with, among, at, on, through and together with which means that the words, Christ in you can mean together with. Therefore the following statement of Paul: -

- To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this *mystery* which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory (v27),

Could read: -

- To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this *mystery* which is Christ *among you* or *together with you* the hope of glory.

Based on these facts some teach that the verse should actually read, "Christ amongst you" meaning that Christ by his Spirit is amongst the church and those who gather in his name. Though this is certainly a true statement since the Lord himself said: -

- For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them (Matt. 18:20).

But! This does not mean that the verse is wrong in saying, Christ in you since Christ by his Spirit and through faith dwells in every brother and sister who is devoted to him.

- 2 Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends," (John 15:13). When a person's eyes are opened to their fallen condition before God and perceive what it cost the Lord Jesus Christ to save them their heart is filled with love for him. In this context it can be rightly said that Christ is in you (meaning Christ dwells in the human heart by love).

The following is a true story and a good example of a person being in the heart of another. An eight-year old disabled girl, whose best friend was her mother was doing her first live stage show. The mother loved her daughter but could not be at the opening show as she was in hospital with terminal cancer.

A television reporter asked the young girl if she would be sad and miss her mother at the opening of the show. The small girl with tears in her eyes said, "Yes I will miss her, but she will be in my heart were she belongs." Love for a person creates the reality or presence of that person in the human heart. This presence is in direct proportion to the love (i.e., the greater the love the greater the presence).

Every Christian, by looking at the cross knows that
God and Jesus love them.

- 3 Christ is the head of a new race and those outside this new race enter into it by faith in belonging to Christ. Adam was the head of the old race that believers were in prior to being in Christ's new race therefore the words, "Christ in you" in this context means: -

- Fully belonging to Christ.
- Being together and in union with Christ.
- Agreeing with and sharing in the divine nature of Christ.
- Having the same mind as Christ (i.e., desiring to honour his heavenly Father).

NOTES: concerning the Devil and Sin.

God said to Cain, "Sin is crouching at the door, its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." (Gen. 4:6) this is the same as saying "Sin is seeking to devour you Cain." In the New Testament the apostle Peter says, "Your adversary the devil (diabolos) prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Peter is saying the same thing to the Lord's disciples as God said to Cain (i.e. the devil desire is for you) thus sin and the devil are the same entity therefore resisting the devil and resisting sin are also the same thing.

The Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil (diabolos). Sin and the devil are personified as an entity that is always looking and waiting for its opportunity and chance to pounce on its victim. God says we can master it, meaning control its behavior or bring it into submission. From these verses we learn that the devil (diabolos) is the personification of sin.

The following is the meanings of the devil, the serpent and satan in their simplest terms: -

The Serpent ----- Is anyone that comes as a tempter or entices to sin

The devil (diabolos) ----- Is anyone that comes as an accuser or slander

Satan ----- Is anyone that comes as an opposer to God

An Example of the devil, the serpent and satan: a young apprentice starts a new job, on his first day a fellow worker approaches him and says, all the boys are buying ecstasy drugs how many do you want. The young lad says sorry I don't take drugs it is against what I believe. This man is a serpent to the boy by tempting him to compromise his principals. The man goes and tells the rest of the workers, hey guys this new apprentice is a wowser a self-righteous religious nut, now the man is a devil by being an accuser and slander.

Then later in the same day one of the stronger men gets the boy by himself and says listen you little runt of a kid, don't pull that religious stuff on us. I'll mess your face up good, this man is a satan to the boy by being an opposer to what the young apprentice believes. The poor kid has confronted the serpent, the devil and satan all on his first day of work.

CONCLUSION: throughout the New Testament the evil desires, thoughts and attitudes of the human mind and the heart are often personified as a single entity called the devil especially when they are against Christ, his teachings and those who belong to him. The word devil can be seen as a single word that embraces every thought that is in the human mind, every attitude that is in the heart and every action that physically, financially, emotionally or spiritually slanders and opposes Christ's Kingdom or harms those who belong to him. The works of the devil is manifested in some form of mental or physical harm to self or another human.

For further information of the Devil see the title: -

- Devil.

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End