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

The Expressions Christ in You and In Christ. And Believers are all One. (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.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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The Expressions: -

Christ in You, In Christ and Believers are all One.

Topics.

- The Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father.
 - I am in the Father and the Father is in me.
 - The Comforter the Spirit of truth dwells in you.
 - I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you.
 - They maybe one as Christ and the Father are one.
 - Being of one mind.
 - May Christ be formed in you.
 - Love the greatest power on earth.
 - Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.
 - Christ in you and the new race.
 - The riches of the glory of the mystery, Christ in you, the hope of glory.
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The Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father.

John 10:38 ----- ¹Jesus said: if I do the works of God even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

In this context Jesus words, "The Father is in me and I am in the Father" carries the idea that Jesus is in God by the Spirit and by love and God is in His Son by the Spirit and by love it means that God the Father and Jesus have the same mind, plans, purposes and goals as each other there is no division or tension between them everything Jesus does is the will of the Father. It means they are perfect in Spirit, word, love, unity and purpose. It is the same as saying God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son are one in love.

I am in the Father and the Father is in Me.

John 14:9-10 ----- ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you (Philip) not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

The words, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" do not mean Jesus is the Father, but that he is a reflection and mirror image of the Father, Jesus whole purpose was to bring people into fellowship with his heavenly Father. Jesus is not saying that he is God the Father (as some believe), he is simply saying in his life he perfectly manifested the character, power, mercy, plans, purposes and love of God that is why Jesus can say, "If you had known me, you should have known my Father also." It is like an identical twin saying, "If you know me you will also know my sister," they are a reflection of each other. Jesus is saying that he is a reflection of God (or a mirror image of Him).

Prior to Jesus coming into the world the chief religious leaders, the Pharisees and Scribes had given the people a totally wrong picture of the nature and character of God, but now Jesus has now made God's character and nature very clear by living according to God's will. Today no one can stand before God and say they did not know what He was like, because Jesus is the visible and perfect reflection of the character and nature of the invisible Almighty God.

Jesus words: -

- Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

Means that Jesus dwells in the Father by his Spirit and by his love and the Father dwells in Jesus by His Spirit and by His love. The Father also dwells in Jesus by His word, the word of God is the express image God it reveals Gods plans, purposes, grace, mercy, love and who God is.

When Jesus or any brother or sister in Christ has a full knowledge of God and they embrace that knowledge, and commit themselves to the God that knowledge reveals by making Him the supreme desire of their heart and mind they can say that God dwells in them. God and Jesus dwell in believers by their Spirit, the truth and by their love, in the same way God dwells in Jesus and Jesus dwells in God.

When the Bible writers use the expression, "Dwell in him" or "Dwell in them" they are not saying God becomes Jesus and Jesus becomes God it is biblical language that expresses the perfect relationship of love, intimacy and unity between two individual people. It can be between Christ and God, between brothers and sisters in Christ and Christ himself, since we are all united together by the Spirit, the word and by love and it is in this sense that we are all in each other by the Spirit, the word and by love.

Jesus words: -

- The Father who dwells in me, does His work.

Means that Jesus was filled with God's Spirit without measure, at Jesus water baptism God poured His Spirit upon Jesus without any limitations, it was God's Spirit dwelling in Jesus and working through him that gave him the ability to perform the miracles and wonders he did.

The Comforter the Spirit of Truth Dwells in You.

John 14:16-17 ----- ¹⁶I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter. ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to the Father and will ask Him to send the Comforter (the Holy Spirit which is also the Spirit of Truth) to them. There are various aspects of God and Christ dwelling in a believer, one of the aspects of God and Jesus dwelling in believers is through the Comforter the Spirit of truth, if a believer has the truth of God dwelling in them it can be said they have God and Christ dwelling in them.

This is because the truth of God is of course the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Believers receive the Comforter the Spirit of truth by hearing or reading the word of God, if it is mixed with faith and they believe and embrace it into their lives, it can be said the Comforter dwells in them.

The Spirit of truth is called the Comforter because the truth of Christ's Gospel unites a sinner to God and saves them to eternal life and everlasting glory by grace and not by self-effort, works of the law or by having to strictly adhere to ceremonial rites, holy days or by having to keep religious customs and traditions. This is why the Spirit of truth (referring to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ) is called the Comforter it brings freedom from works of the law and unites those who believe it to God's love, to Christ's love and to eternal life.

Following are two other reasons the Spirit of truth is called the Comforter: -

1. When a sinner is united to the love of God that love comforts in times of great sorrow and hardship.
2. God's grace brings peace and comfort to the mind when a faithful brother or sister is struggling with sin.

I am in My Father and You in Me, and I in You.

John 14:20 ----- ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Jesus tells his disciples, "I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you." Jesus is saying, "Believers are in him and he is in believer's." This means that Jesus is in believers by his Spirit, by his word and by his love and believers are in Jesus by faith and by his word that dwells in them and by their love.

John 14:21-23 ----- ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

When a believer keeps God's commandments and Jesus words meaning they not only desire from the heart, but also endeavour to live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ they outwardly evidence the love of Jesus and the love God dwelling in their hearts.

Jesus says when a believer lives in this manner both he and God will abide with them. This means that the favour, comfort grace and love of God and of Christ will dwell in the heart and mind of those who faithfully following Christ.

John 14:24 ----- ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

In contrast to those who faithfully follow Christ are those who confess to believe, but are totally indifferent to how they live their life. There is no thought given to how their behaviour, speech and actions reflect Christ to others. They do the outward religious things required of them, but inwardly have no passion, zeal or desire to live their life in a manner that would honour God and reflect the good character of Christ.

They live solely for self and to gratify the desires of the flesh (self, ego and pride etc.). Jesus is saying in this verse that it matters not how dutifully a person may adhere to religious works or how much they might confess to believe their outward actions and behaviour evidences that they have no love for God or the Lord Jesus Christ dwelling in their heart or their mind.

They maybe One as Christ and the Father are One.

John 17:11 ----- ¹¹I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

Jesus is speaking to the apostles at the Last Supper and is about to be betrayed, crucified and resurrected. He is asking the Father to keep the apostles (and by extension all faithful believers in Christ) strong in their faith so that they maybe one in the same way that Jesus and the Father are one. These words of Jesus shine a spotlight on the truth that a collective group of individuals can be one as God the Father and Jesus Christ are one. Obviously becoming one does not mean the collective group of individuals become one single individual, nor does it mean

Jesus the Son becomes God the Father or that God the Father becomes Jesus the Son (as some believe). Becoming one means that Jesus and God the Father are one in purpose plans, motivation and love they have the same mind and are in perfect unity together. This is what Jesus means when he asked the Father to keep all those who have faithfully followed him strong in their faith so that they may become one in the same way that God the Father and Jesus Christ are one. Being one is about becoming one in mind, unity and love.

Believer's maybe One as the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father.

John 17:20-23 ----- ²⁰"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Jesus is praying that believer's maybe all one as the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father. Obviously a collective group of people cannot become one entity yet Jesus is praying that they become one as he and the Father are one which shines a spotlight on the truth that being one does not mean that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are the same person, but are one in perfect love and perfect unity. Becoming one means being one in love and unity it means having the same mind and purpose it is in this way that God is in Christ and Christ is in God and in us and we are in him and in the Father.

Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in him, in the sense of being one in mind purpose and love and it is in this same way that Jesus is praying that we may all be one, just as the Father is in him and he is in the Father so that we also maybe in both the Father and the Son.

The reason Jesus is praying: -

- That those in Christ may become perfectly one (23).

Is, not only so that the world would know that God the Father sent him, but also know that God loves us with the same love that He loved his own Son with, God's love is best manifested through the unity of those who believe in Him.

Being of One Mind.

Since we are not perfect in knowledge as God and the Lord Jesus Christ are being of one mind does not mean all brothers and sisters must hold fast to every doctrine of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in exactly the same way, nor does it mean we should all be clones of each other.

Certainly we must understand the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but for the multitude of other Bible teachings that though understanding them correctly brings wisdom and strengthens faith they are not important to know to be saved to eternal life, for these kind of teachings we can agree to disagree and in this way still be of one mind.

No faithful brother or sister devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and faithfully following him should be forced to conform to someone else's dogma when it is not a question of salvation. Everyone should be given time and grace to discover the Bible themselves and not be robbed from their own intellectual freedom to explore it and the excitement of doing so.

Sure there maybe times when we come to the wrong conclusion but if we remain humble and listen to each other in a spirit of peace and grace we will be constantly challenged to check our own conclusions and be constantly challenging other to check their conclusion rather than allowing one man to teach us all, consider the mass error being spread if he is not right in what he is teaching.

Clearly if ego and pride was left outside of Christianity and we all lived with a safe sense of being accepted and not being cast out as rebels should we share something we believe to be true or question a teaching we think might not be so it would be far less likely false teaching would spread as much as it does under a system where a congregation's mind has to surrender and submit to the teaching of one man without question or the teaching of an established religious hierarchy.

May Christ be formed in You.

Galatians 4:19 ----- 19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

Paul earnestly and deeply desired that Christ would be formed in the Galatian brothers and sisters (Gal. 4:19). He saw himself as a father who gave spiritual birth to the Galatians and was anxious that as they grew in faith Christ would be formed in them.

Christ being formed in you carries the following two ideas: -

1. That our heart and mind would be full of love, compassion, mercy, kindness and forgiveness etc., not only toward our brothers and sisters in the Lord but also toward those outside the Kingdom of God.
2. God's will, God's eternal plan, God's love, His purposes and promise are engraved in our hearts and our minds and the Lord Jesus Christ is our greatest love and our greatest desire.

This principle of a person being formed in us is not limited to Christ only, since any person we deeply love or deeply worship (true or false) can be formed in us. Every married person who has ever experienced self-sacrificing, compassionate and supporting love will not only have experienced the one they loved being formed in their heart and their mind, but also in their emotions.

When someone loses a spouse, family member or friend they have been close to for many years and loved deeply the presence of that person will remain as a real entity in their mind and heart.

For some it will be to the end of their lives while for others it will dissipate over time (depending on the depth of love and the length of time they have loved) for others though the memory will remain the spiritual presence will pass when new love blossoms. Paul's greatest and heartfelt desire for all faithful brothers and sisters in Christ was that they would know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (Ephes. 3:19) and that Christ would be formed in them (Gal. 4:19).

Love the Greatest Power on Earth.

Here is the glory the beauty and wonder of the Christian faith it is not about having a head full of intellectual knowledge, but being united in love with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is from this great love that Christ has for his brothers and sisters (his friends) that their zealousness and desire to live a life that honours his heavenly Father stems and flows and when this love flows out to others it testifies that the Spirit of Christ is dwelling in the heart.

Love for a person creates the reality or presence
of that person in the human heart.

The greatest motivating power on earth is love people will willingly lay down their lives for someone they love there is no other greater power that influences the human heart to do good than love.

This of course is why God in his eternal mind and eternal wisdom purposed before the world began that salvation would be in his Son the Lord Jesus Christ and not in intellectual head knowledge or legalistically adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or strictly keeping religious customs and traditions.

Some Bible scholars point out the fact that no-where in the Bible is it stated that to be saved to eternal life a person must have a personal relationship with Christ. They point out that the Bible proclaims that to be saved we must believe that Jesus died for our sins and rose again (a true statement).

It is true to be saved a person must understand the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but it is also true that no one needs to be told they must love Christ. Love for a person automatically happens, especially when it is realised that someone was willing to lay their life down for them.

Since this is exactly what Christ did no-one has to tell a person who understands that the Lord (an innocent man) suffered a horrifically brutal, bloody and cruel death so they could have eternal life that they must have a loving relationship with him, it is automatic and spontaneous, without any coercing God's love and the love of Christ flood the heart and mind with luminous light.

The human nervous system, the emotions and the heart do not need to be told or commanded to respond to love (especially unconditional love) they just automatically do so. God knowing the power of love in His great and eternal wisdom and knowing how humans twist things did not write laws into the Scripture commanding that the faithful must walk in a heartfelt loving relationship with His Son.

It is almost certain that had God written laws concerning love certain legalistic teachers would have turned loving the Lord Jesus Christ into some type of dogmatic teaching and legalistic tradition. God desires our response to His unconditional love in Christ to be a willing response flowing up to Him as a sweet smelling fragrance of love that spontaneously springs from the uttermost depth of our heart and not from the letter of the law.

Christ may dwell in Your Hearts through Faith.

Ephesians 3:16-17 --- ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

The word 'in' from Strong's Concordance means in, by, with, among, at, on, through and together with.

This means that the words Christ in you could read: -

- Christ among you.
- Christ by you.
- Christ together with you.

Christ in you can mean the following three things: -

1. That Christ was in the midst (or among) the Gentiles prior to the resurrection making known God's glorious plan of salvation for the Gentiles.
2. Jesus is the truth and the expression of God's love, and is therefore in believers through truth and love.
3. Jesus words, his Gospel, his love and the desire to do his will is in the heart and mind of those who believe in him.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends," (John 15:13). When the eyes of a sinner are opened to their fallen condition before God and they perceive what it cost the Lord Jesus Christ to save them their heart is filled with love toward him, it is in this sense that Christ dwells in the human heart. Jesus dwells in the heart by his Spirit and 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 girl with a severe disability, 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 where she belongs." Love for a person creates the reality and 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 spiritual presence).

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

The following four inward attitudes and outward behaviors evidence Christ's Spirit being in a believer: -

1. They have the same mind purposes and goals as Jesus.
2. They are one in mind and purpose with Jesus.
3. They love Jesus and it is evidenced by their lifestyle.
4. They trust in and rely on Christ's for their eternal salvation.

Some believe that the following words of Paul: -

- So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith (v17)

Should actually read, "That Christ may dwell amongst you" meaning that Christ by his Spirit is amongst the church and amongst those who gather in his name and 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) it does not mean that the verse is wrong in saying, "Christ in you" since Christ by his Spirit, by love and through faith dwells in the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister who is devoted to him.

Christ in You and the New Race.

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).

This new race is also called the body of Christ, the Church, the Kingdom of God, a new creation and a new nation in Christ. Christians are in this new race by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Adam was the head of the old race that we were all in prior to believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Before being delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13-14) every brother and sister could have said, they were: -

- In Adam.
- In Adam's race.
- In Adam's world.

In contrast to this those who belong to Christ can say they are: -

- In Christ.
- In Christ's race.
- In Christ's world.

In Christ also means, being saved to eternal life by faith in Christ, being together and in union with Christ and agreeing with and sharing in the divine nature of Christ.

The Riches of the Glory of the Mystery, Christ in You, the Hope of Glory.

Colossians 1:27-29 --- ²⁷To 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.

Prior to Jesus coming into the world, God's favour and focus was upon the nation of Israel. they were God's special and unique people as the following shows.

God said: -

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation: -

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power.
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules.
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises.
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory.
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted.
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith.
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the World.

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges.

But now God is saving sinners from all nations and not just Israel. This is what the words "The riches of the glory of the mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" refers to. It is the abundant grace and love of God displayed on the cross of Calvary through the sacrifice of God's own Son the Lord Jesus Christ and Jesus willingness to surrender his life to a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that we could be saved by faith and God's Grace.

It is called a mystery because though there are glimpses of Gentiles being saved in Christ in certain prophecies and Old Testament Scriptures the glory of God's salvation in Christ to all nations was hidden from the fathers of Old.

The religious leaders of Old Testament Israel primarily believed they were the chosen race with God and the Gentiles were an unclean race without God.

This no-doubt is another reason Paul refers to this mystery that is now revealed in Christ as God's riches and the hope of glory. Meaning God's eternal salvation is now available to Jews and Gentiles alike through faith in Christ, Israel's Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world.

CONCLUSION.

The expression, "In Christ" means the following three things: -

1. Those who have faith in Christ are in a new race of which Christ is the head. This new race is called a new creature in Christ, a new creation, a new nation (made up of Jews and Gentiles), the body of Christ, the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Christ, the family of Christ and the church. Adam was the head of the old race that believers were in prior to being transferred by faith in Christ into this new race.
2. Being together and in union with Christ, agreeing with and sharing in the divine nature of Christ.
3. Christ is in us by love, we are in Christ by love, Christ is in the Father by love and the Father is in Christ by love. We are all united together by love and in each other by love.

John wrote: -

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8).
- We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

End.