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GRACE**

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**Christ  
in  
You.**

**(Ephesians 3:17)**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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 perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Christ in You. (Eph. 3:17).

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**INTRODUCTION:** this study has very little to do with the theory and belief that Jesus is God, but it does explain the expression "Christ in You." Understanding this expression may give some insight and help to those who are in some degree of confusion because of the traditional teaching that claims Jesus is God. Hopefully it will shed some light and understanding on the truth that when Jesus said, "He is in the Father and the Father is in him" it does not mean that he is the Father.

- **Ephesians 3:17:** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love.
- **Colossians 1:27:** 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.

The following are the three most common teachings concerning 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, since (*in*) can mean among and together with Paul's words, "Christ in you the hope of glory" could read:
  - Christ among you the hope of glory.
  - Christ 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, this of course 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 it does not mean that the verse is wrong in saying, "Christ in you" since Christ by his Spirit and through faith dwells in every faithful brother and sister who is devoted to him.

1. 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, it is in this sense that Christ dwells in the human heart. The following is a true story and a good example of a person being in the heart of another. A seriously disabled eight-year old 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 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 presence).

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

2. 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 zealously 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 the 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 no one needs to be told they must love Christ. Love for a person automatically happens, especially when it is realized 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 and cruel death so they could have eternal life that they must have a loving relationship with him, it is automatic, 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.

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).

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 together and in union with Christ and agreeing with and sharing in the divine nature of Christ.

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## CONCLUSION

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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. Just as the words "Christ in you" and "You are in Christ" obviously do not mean we become Christ himself, likewise the word, "Jesus is in the Father and the father is in Jesus," do not mean that Jesus becomes the Father.

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).

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For further information see the title:

- Christ in You (Col. 1:27-29).