

The Significance of Whose We Are

Gal 2:20 ... *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."*

2 Cor 5:17 ... *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."*

When a woman gives birth to a child, a brand new person is born. Similarly, when you are born again you still have the same body and soul (mind, will and emotion part), but a new person is birthed in your spirit. That person is Christ. His perfect, holy and righteous nature displaces your old sinful nature. As 1 Cor 6:17 puts it ... *"the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him."*

Once we are "born again" and have the nature of Christ within and are one spirit with Him, we then move on with the process or journey of renewing of the soul – the aligning of our soul (mind, will and emotions) with the Spirit, the new life we have in Christ. This is what Rom 12:2 refers to as "transforming of the mind" and Rom 13:14 refers to as "putting on Christ."

Now keeping that in mind, I would like to look at the picture of the three glasses.

Three Glasses: one is empty, one is half full (or half empty depending on how you see things), and one is full to overflowing.



If you are an unbeliever and are without Christ, you are "empty." The old "I" or old sinful nature is still there in control. And sadly, there's nothing of Christ in you.

If you are born again and Christ is in you, you are full. Christ is in you, and you are a brand new creature. According to 2 Pet 1:4 you are a partaker of the divine nature.

Also, as we stand before God there is no in-between – there's no glass half full (or half empty) – either Christ is in you, or He is not.

Today I want to encourage anyone here who is not in Christ to know that God has done everything to make a way for you to receive Christ and be filled to overflowing with His life. I encourage you to listen

to the message preached today, and I pray that you will receive the truth and not hesitate one moment further to accept the amazing Person, Jesus Christ, as your Lord and Saviour.

But for the believers present, those in whom Christ now lives, I pose the question, “What is the significance of Gal 2:20 and 2 Cor 5:17 to you?” I trust today’s talk will help answer that question, as I want to encourage you to enjoy Him and to come to understand the immensity of the riches we have in Him. This will be the focus of the message as we focus upon and revel in the Giver of life and the richness He has brought to us.

Our Status in Christ

In Him you are COMPLETE... not half full or partially lacking ... you’re FULL.

1 Cor 1:4-9 ... *“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that **in everything you were enriched in Him**, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that **you are not lacking in any gift**, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom **you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**”*

2 Pet 1:3 ... *“seeing that His divine power has granted **to us everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”*

2 Cor 5:21 ... *He (the Father) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”*

Because He is righteous and He lives in you and me we have been made righteous. It’s done. It’s complete. You’re fully righteous. Never doubt it. Walk in righteousness with your head held high! Praising Him whose righteousness you bear.

2 Cor 8:9 ... *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, **so that you through His poverty might become rich.**”*

Eph 1:3 ... *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.**”*

Get to know Him and understand the richness He has brought to your life. That’s our focus today.

Eph 2:4-7 ... *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show **the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**”*

My exhortation to you today is, “Get to know the exceeding riches of His grace towards you!”

I like the statement from Josephine Butler's dream (social reformer of Victorian era), when her life passed into a deep shadow and amid many besetments, where she said, "I thought I was lying flat, with a restful feeling, on a smooth, still sea, a boundless ocean, with no limit or shore on any side. It was strong, and held me up, and there was light and sunshine all around me. And I heard a voice say, 'such is the grace of God!'"

Oh the very present and lifting power of God's grace and love that causes you and me to be buoyant in the midst of whatever life throws at us! Oh the riches the grace we have in Christ!

Ps 34:1-3 ... *"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the Lord; the humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."*

In "magnifying" the Lord it's not saying we must try and make Him greater, for you can't make the infinite any greater, rather, it's saying, like using a magnifying glass, we must see Him bigger. We need to see Him for who He really is. Who has come to take up residence in me, do I really know him?

And when we do put the magnifying glass on Him and we see Him for who he really is, then let us, like the Psalmist, boast in the Lord and pray that the contagion of our faith may embolden others!"

But I ask, is that our continual position? One of gazing upon our Lord and marvelling at what we see and what He has brought to us, and walking in the riches of His grace and giving praise to Him?

Sin consciousness vs righteousness consciousness:

You see, so often we spend our time looking at life as a glass half empty. We focus upon the problems that beset us. We tend to hone in upon and mope on our perceived inadequacies. We grumble about the injustices we feel we face. We are often are in a state of worry or anxiety over one thing or another.

Paul appeared to be in this position in Romans 7, where the pulls of the flesh against the spirit were strong and he found himself doing the things he didn't want to do and not doing the things he knew were right, and was frustrated and felt wretched. But he didn't stay there having a pity party. In Romans 8 he immediately confirmed that there is no condemnation for the one in whom Christ dwells, and he reminds us that it is what we focus on that is important – he encourages us to keep our gaze upon Christ.

Rom 8:6 ... *"For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."*

The effect and pull of sin in our flesh and focusing on the natural realm is that it robs us of walking the reality our true nature, the Christ nature, and denies us the vision of whose and who we really are.

God is the giver of life and what a gift to be enjoyed! The gift of His presence, His life and power in us and living out through us.

As we focus upon and listen to the Holy Spirit who will reveal Christ in us to us, we will discover who He is and what His dreams and desires are and what He longs to do in transforming us and acting through us. We will grow in our ability to experience and receive His heart, His thoughts and His empowerment and express them in ways that will make a difference to the world around us.

Or, using an analogy, let me put it in a different way: if you were married to a highly successful investment banker or high powered financial adviser, there's no doubt your financial position would change. If you were married to a well-known movie star, your social circle would grow to include the rich and famous. If you were married to the president or prime minister of a nation, your authority would be much greater. But here's the important thing: As Paul states in 1 Cor 6:17 ... *"the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him"*. We are one with Christ, we are His bride! So because of who He is, our identity and opportunity are nothing short of amazing! As John says in 1 John 4:17 ... *"as He is, so also are we in this world."* "Christ in you, the hope of glory!"

He's way greater than the greatest investment banker, or most famous movie star or president of the most powerful nation! He is King of kings and Lord of Lords, He is the Lord God Almighty, He is the All Sufficient One, and He and you are one! Rom 8:17 we're ... *"Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ"*.

That's whose you are and what he has brought to you!

Col 2:9 ... *"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority."*

John 1:16 ... *"For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace"*

Eph 1:22-23 ... *"He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*

1 Cor 1:30-31 ... *"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"*

... *"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!"*

If you're friends with powerful people the end result will always be that their authority and confidence will rub off on you. As the Holy Spirit reveals the depths of the heart and mind of Christ to you, you'll feel the oneness you have and are in Christ. His nature in you will become evident and bring change in and through you. When you see whose you are you'll realise who you are!

Hallelujah! We have something to shout about!

We used to sing a song:

He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, the wealth in every mine.
He owns the rivers and the rocks and rills, the sun and stars that shine.
Wonderful riches more that tongue can tell, He is my Father so they're mine as well.
He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and so I know that He cares for me.

Our Responsibility:

In order for us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ and walk in Christ in the fullness of Him who fills all in all, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ in us to us. Ask Him to magnify Christ in you to you.

2 Cor 4:6-7 ... *"For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (Lit. ... "In the personal presence of Christ"). But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves."*

God cannot be found by sitting on our rear ends doing nothing, or even by searching using natural means. He can be known only as He is revealed to the heart by the Holy Spirit through the Word. God cannot be known by the intellect. God is Spirit, and can therefore only be known spiritually – by revelation of the Holy Spirit. Even that knowledge is fragmentary. We have to **"grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."** It's a **journey** we are on. Journey of enlightenment.

So we must regularly pray the prayer of Eph 1: 17-23, that we may receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ. Learn that prayer and pray it regularly with expectancy.

1 Cor 2:9-12, 16 ... *"but just as it is written, 'Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.' For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God... we have the mind of Christ"*

As we grow to know Him through the revelation of the Spirit we receive His mind, His thoughts – and there's no sin consciousness or failure consciousness or anxiety in His mind or thoughts.

2 Cor 1:21-22 ... *"Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."*

The Holy Spirit operates in our "heart" which consists of the spirit and soul (the mind, will and emotion part). Eph 6:17 tells us the Sword of the Spirit is the Spirit breathed Word (the rhema), and Heb 4:12 says the Word which is sharper than a two-edged sword divides between soul and spirit. So the Holy Spirit is the Agent who takes the things of the spirit and illumines them to our soul and in doing so teaches us Christ, with whom we are one spirit. The 'Pledge' – the Holy Spirit – teaches us Christ until He is fully formed in us and we see Him as He is on the day of His return.

It's our responsibility to submit to the Holy Spirit and "learn Christ" and to walk in everything He is and has freely given to us. Why live as a spiritual pauper when we can and should be living as royalty? He's King of kings and Lord of lords, and His is the life you live by. ... *"it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."* Know who He is and know who you are in Him, and live in victory. Boast in the Giver and riches of grace that are yours in Christ. You're one with Christ, you're His bride, revel in whose you are, and what that means! ... *"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (Rom 12:2)

Be one who can hold your head high and boldly state 2 Cor 2:14

... "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place."

In years gone by we used to sing a song:

I am blessed, I am blessed, every day of my life I am blessed,
When I wake up in the morning or lay my head to rest,
I am blessed, I am blessed.

Amen! Well, I trust this look into God's Word today has helped you come to see the significance of Gal 2:20 and 2 Cor 5:17 to you.

Prayer:

Eph 3:14-21 (paraphrased) ... *"We bow our knees before You heavenly Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that You would grant us, according to the riches of Your glory, to be strengthened with power through Your Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith; and that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that we may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

Now to You, heavenly Father, who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to You be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."