

Well, I have just come to share the Word with you, and I hope there is maybe something of what I share that you can receive from the Lord. I do not know everything. I am growing myself, but I hope that there is something I can share that will bless you. I know that we have visitors here. This may be your first time, and I may share things that you do not understand, or things that you do not agree with. Don't not come back to this church because of me. Come back later after I am gone. Experience a normal service. Amen? Do not judge this church by me. Amen? I do desire to lift up the Lord. That is what is in my heart, greater than anything else. And anytime that you preach, you may share something wrong, or you might not be able to share every point on every subject. But I want you to know my heart. I desire to lift up Jesus, so I pray that you will be open to the Lord.

Let us turn to Galatians chapter four, verse 19. "My little children for whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." Notice that Paul had a burden on his heart. He cared about these people. And he was very concerned. So much that he prays in travail. He was not concerned over sin. He was not concerned over growth. He was concerned that Christ be formed in them.

You see, Paul was one of the original founders of the church. He built the foundation, and all the centuries since, we have built on that foundation. But the foundation is Christ. Not doctrines. Not buildings. Not religious services. Not rituals. But Christ. But not just Jesus in heaven, because he did not just pray for them to know Jesus in heaven. His desire was the Christ be formed in them.

Most of these people in the church of Galatia, they were already saved. They had met the Lord, but he had another prayer. It was a prayer for the Christians, that Christ be formed in them. Many people believe in Jesus. They pray to Jesus. But their lives are not in conformity to Christ. But Paul knew the plan of God. God sent His Son to die for us. He raised Him from the dead. And He sent Christ to dwell within us. He did not just save us. But He sent Christ to live His life within us.

Paul saw in this Galatian church that they loved the Lord, that they were Christians, but they needed something more. They had Christ, but He was not formed in them. Have you ever seen something that is unformed? That means it is not clear. There are many Christians that love Jesus, but Christ is not clear to them. He is unformed. It is not clear to their understanding of what He is like. They understand that He made them, but they do not understand His nature. Paul saw that their lives were contrary to that nature; and so he was very burdened in his prayer. He prayed hard that Christ would be formed in them.

Now, when we talk about Christ being formed in us, there are many thoughts that we have. We can quote from scriptures, but many of us will come up with different concepts of what that quote means. Let us turn to Colossians chapter one. And there is a very familiar verse in verse 27. Let's read it: "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Now, I think many in this church feel they understand this scripture. They feel that they understand this scripture. They feel that they understand that it must be Christ in them. It is not just you living a good Christian life, but we are earthen vessels. We have a treasure within us. We are not just Christians, we are an habitation of God. We are the house of God. This is where Jesus lives. And when people meet us, they should meet the Lord.

We were talking about being filled with the Spirit earlier, and the song said, "Fill us, Lord." But many people live their normal life waiting for God to come and move on them, and to fill them, so that they can move with the Lord. And maybe they have experienced that two or three or four or five times in their life. And so for them, this is what Christ living in them is all about. But, you see, it is more than that. It is more than just from time to time experiencing the Lord. Paul put it this way: "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, but not I. It is Christ that lives within me." Christ in me. There it clearly says, "Not I, but Christ."

Now, this is where we get into confusion. You say, "Well, I want it to be Jesus." "Not I, but Christ." But then in Colossians here it says it is supposed to be Christ in you. So the question comes, "Is it me or not me? I mean, it is supposed to be Jesus, right? So how do I fit into this?" This is where we have to examine the scriptures because Colossians clearly says, "Christ in you." He did not just say the hope of glory was Christ. And then the other prayer that he prayed in Galatians, he prayed that Christ would be formed in you. So you see, there are two elements there. There is Christ. But where is He? He is in you. And it is important to understand that you are a part of this.

Many people think there must be no "you". and they take that from Galatians 2:20. They say, "Not I, but Christ." But the rest of that scripture goes on to say this: "The life that I live in this flesh I live by the faith of the life in me." You see two things happening there? One is living by faith. The other one is Christ living on me. Do you see that? Many times we kind of move off out of the picture, so we say, "Well, it has got to be Jesus in me. And I do not feel like Jesus is coming out of me right now, but I will be glad to move with the Lord when He moves in me." But it is more than that; and I want to help clarify this a little more. It must be Christ in you, as He is the source, He is the power, but we are the vessel. And we are not passive, we are active. So this thought of "Only Jesus, and me nowhere in the picture" is wrong. You see, it is real obvious that Jesus lives and reigns.

I am a pastor of a church, and all the people can look at me, and at times they say, "I see Jesus." and at times they say, "I see Randy." They can see the difference. I can see the difference. You can see the difference. But it is Christ in me, and I am responsible to let His life come forth.

Now let's talk more specifically about this Christ that is within us. Turn to I Peter chapter one. Let us read verse four: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Where is the person of Jesus? Now, think about it. I said, where is the person of Jesus? The person of Jesus is in

heaven, seated at the right hand of the Father. Do you agree with that? I hope so. Where is the nature of Jesus? He is within us. Where is the person of Jesus? In heaven. Where is the nature of Jesus? Within us.

This is where many people get confused. They receive Jesus. They hear the revelation of Christ, and they believe they believe that Christ must be formed in them. They believe that the Cross was not just an historical event, but something that works right now, where I am crucified, and Christ lives. But how is it that Christ lives? How is it that Christ is formed in you and me? That is the big question. At least the big question this morning. How is it that Christ is formed in me? Do I receive, like a little baby, Jesus in my heart, and all my years as a Christian, he begins to grow, until one day there is a full grown Jesus in me? My body is like a glove, and Jesus is living in me? Is that the way it is? No. But some people seem to think that is the way it is. It is Jesus in there. And we say, "I just want it to be Jesus." So somebody says, "Will you come help me?" And we do not sense Jesus in us at that moment. We say, "No, I would not want to do that because I want it to be Jesus."

Hello? Are you still glad you came? Amen? Hallelujah. There are many different thoughts about this, but II Peter tells us what we have received. We have received a divine nature. It is divine. It is not our nature. It is a heavenly nature. It is the nature of Christ. Now that means that Jesus has come in us as a nature. As a nature. Not two people inside of us. There is me and there is Jesus, and there is this big fight going on. That is the way many people look at it. But the person of Jesus is not in you. He is in heaven. The Holy Spirit is in you. And Christ dwells in your heart by what? By faith, right? The life I live in this flesh I live by that faith. Christ dwells in your heart by faith. This is what it says in the Bible.

Okay, so Jesus is one with the Holy Spirit. And you receive the Holy Spirit. And with the Holy Spirit came the nature of Jesus. So this says that we have become partakers of the divine nature. Now, let us begin to think of Jesus in us in terms of a nature, not in terms of a person. Now let us look at Philippians chapter two. And here we see Paul continuing to preach Christ, but he is putting the emphasis on the nature of Christ. He wants it to be Christ in these believers. We want it to be Christ in us, but we have to understand exactly what God means for that to take place. Let us read Philippians 2:1-4.

Wait a minute. Let's not read those verses yet. Let's read verses 5-8 because this talks about Jesus and the other verses talk about us. So let's start with Jesus. Notice as we read this, His nature. "Let this mind be in you which also was in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Is that good? Notice that it talks about Jesus, but it talks about His nature. See it? It is talking about His nature. In fact, only verse 8 talks about the Cross. And it said He went to the Cross and died. There are two crosses in these scriptures. One that He

died on, and one that took Him to the Cross. Look at the scriptures. It is there. He already had the Cross working in His heart. It worked as a nature, and because it was His nature, He went to a physical Cross. Do you see that? It is right there.

We always look at the Cross as everything, but what was it that took Jesus to the Cross? What is it going to take, to take you and I to the Cross? It is this spirit of the Cross. Amen? We will call it a lamb nature. Amen? The nature of the lamb? But we read verses 5-8, and that spoke about Jesus. But we want to read verses 1-4. This speaks of us: "If there be, therefore, any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tenders mercies and compassions, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

This is the nature of Jesus in the Christian. This is Jesus coming out of somebody. Right? We say, "I want Jesus to come out of me." This is Jesus. This is His nature. This is the way He acts. He is your life. He is in you. This is how He wants to live. It says that we should esteem others better than ourselves.

Okay, we get in a situation, and somebody is going to be chosen to lead a group. And everybody wants to be the leader. And so somebody says, "Okay, I want this brother right here to lead." And we start feeling bitterness in our heart. And we say, "I want Jesus to come out of me. I want it to be Jesus. Come on, Jesus, come out of me. You are in there, aren't you?" We are talking like the person of Jesus is there. It is the nature of Jesus. Jesus is not supposed to be in us like this. We are supposed to agree with, or yield to, the nature of Jesus. He said, He used the word, "Let this mind be in you." "Let." To permit is not an action word. It is a yielding word. You have His nature, yield to it. "But I feel bitter!" Then you deny yourself, take up the Cross, and esteem others better than yourself. Is that right? Because, "I want it to be Jesus." That is how it is Jesus.

Let me give you another example. Some of us were sharing the other day, and the Lord gave me this example. You have a need in the church. You need some Sunday school teachers for the children. And there are four positions open. And the leaders of the church stand up and say, "We need help. We need four people." And then they get quiet. and you might get four different responses. If the pastor stands there long enough and does this... somebody is going to raise their hand because they feel a duty to do that. They may even be under the law. They feel guilty. And so it is not really in their heart to do it, but "I will do it."

And the pastor says, "That's one. We need three more." And somebody else is sitting there, and they are new in the church. And they want to get known. And they want to have position. And they want to be respected. And so, out of pride they raise their hand. "I'll do it! I'll do it!" And they kind of do it like this, so that everybody can see, "I'm spiritual." You understand what I am saying? Those are two different people.

Pastor says, "We need two more." There is another person sitting there. They say, "Oh Lord, should I do this? And they hear a voice, the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit says, "Teach Sunday school." And they say, "I am going to yield to the Holy Spirit. I don't understand why He wants me to teach Sunday school, so I am going to obey."

The pastor says, "We need one more. One more. We are not going any further in the service until I get one more." And there is one person sitting back there, and they see that there is a need, and knows that it is going to cost them in terms of time and energy. But they count the cost, and they lay down their life, and they see the need, and they say, "If nobody else will do this, I will do this as unto the Lord. And I will do the best job I can because it is Christ in me to give my life." It was a nature. Jesus did not stand up in them, "I will do it. This is the Lord!" The nature of Jesus was in them, and they yielded to the nature, amen?

So you have four people. The one that is serving under law. He is not happy from the very beginning. "Man, I know they wanted me to do this. I will obey the leaders, but I hate it. I hate it!" Oh, that is going to bless the children. But they are going to do it. And you may never see what is in their heart. They look spiritual, they may even smile, but it is not Jesus in them, amen?

The other person, he acted out of pride. He like seeing his name on the list: "Here are our four new Sunday school teachers." And he sees his name of the list, and he feels good. And everybody is patting him on the back, "Oh brother, thank God for you. We really need you. I know you are going to do a good job, and the Lord bless you." But he feels....

Now, the Holy Spirit is a person. Jesus is a nature from within. The Holy Spirit talks to you, and says, "Go witness." Pray right here." "Raise you hands." But Jesus is not in there saying that. You do not see anywhere in the scriptures where Jesus is on the inside saying things like that. Paul was in prison once, and the person of Jesus appeared to him. Do you understand? The person of Jesus appeared to him. It was not Jesus on the inside of him, speaking to him and saying, Go do this." The Holy Spirit speaks in there, but the person of Jesus does not. But the nature of Jesus does. You have experienced that. It was not that God told you to do something, it is that you know it was His Spirit and nature to do it.

So this third person, he yields to the Holy Spirit. Okay, and he teaches for a while. Let's say, six months to two years. And after two years, he is getting tired. He is running out of material, the kids are getting out of control. He cannot remember the voice of the Lord so clear after two years. Do you know what I am talking about? This is the time he needs the nature of Jesus. Think about it. Right? Even though the Holy Spirit told him two years ago what to do, he is beginning to doubt, that the voice is not fresh. And so this is the time he needs the nature of Jesus, amen? Anybody? Praise God.

Remember this. Do not judge this church by me. When I leave, then you can come visit. Okay, let us talk about the fourth person. he said, "There is a need. Jesus

said to lay down my life, deny myself, take up my Cross, and follow Him. And if I am going to do this, I am going to do it to the glory of God. I am going to do it when I feel good. And I am going to do it when I feel bad, because I am going to yield to the nature of Jesus. I am going to yield today, and tomorrow, and two years from now." Can you see that? Jesus is consistant. His nature is consistant. There is only one way we can be consistant, and that is to yield to His nature. To yield to His nature.

You say, "Well, should I teach Sunday school? I don't know if I should or shouldn't. I mean, I want it to be Jesus. I don't want to just volunteer, I want it to be Jesus." Well, let it be Jesus. I mean, don't wait for Jesus. Don't wait for the person of Jesus to stand up in you. Permit His nature to flow through you. He is the treasure, you are the vessel. Let the treasure flow through you. Do not yield to the person of Jesus, yield to the nature. Esteem others better than yourself.

Let us look at one other scripture. I Peter 2:21-23: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered he threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously." Okay, notice that this described the nature of Jesus. It also described the person of Jesus because the person of Jesus has the nature of Jesus. He is at the right hand of God right now. You cannot separate His person from His nature. He will always be this way.

Okay, but the scriptures do not leave it there. Verse 21 says that we are called to this nature. You see, God is not making us a whole lot of little Jesuses. Right? He is not making a Jesus here, and a Jesus there, and a Jesus there, and a Jesus there. He gave everybody the nature of Jesus. Many people are trying to be Jesus. "I want it to be Jesus." "I am trying to be Jesus." You are not the person of Jesus, amen? But you have receive His nature. And if you get the two confused, then it is going to be hard, because you will have decisions to make, and you will be waiting for Jesus. Waiting for Jesus. You do not have to wait for Jesus. We are waiting for the person of Jesus to act. But that is not what we are supposed to be waiting on. We are supposed to permit His nature to come through us.

Now these scriptures show the nature of Jesus. It says when He was reviled, He reviled not again. "Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously." That is the way Jesus is. And we say, "Somebody reviled me, and I would like to slap them in the face." and so we are waiting on Jesus to come stand up on the inside of us, but He never will. Because it is not the person of Jesus, it is the nature of Jesus. He was reviled, and did not revile back.

Now, let me show you this. Chapter 3:8-10: "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good day, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." That is the nature

of Jesus. And that is what He says, "Finally, brethren, let this be in you." So here we have the nature of Jesus. It says have compassion on one another, be courteous. I like verse 9, "Not renderign evil for evil." Now that is not you because you will do that.

Now let us go back to our original thought that we had. We have talked about Galatians 2:20. And it said, "Not I, but Christ," remember? So what does it mean, "Not I, but Christ?" Because Colossians 1:27 said, "Christ in me." One scripture says, not me, and another scripture says in me. I am confused. How do you explain it? it is real easy. Galatians, when it says, "Not I," it is talking about the old nature. The old nature. When it says "Not I" it means not the old nature. When it says "Christ in me," it means the new nature, which is the nature of Christ comign out of me. Amen? Right? Pastors? Break out the Cross and hang me on it! No.

So I will close with this. Many people are waiting on Jesus. They love the Lord. They do not want to move in their own strength, and so they almost do nothing. "I cannot do that, it is not Jesus in me. One day I am sure it will be Jesus in me, but right now it is not. I can tell it is me. You can tell that it is me, but if Jesus shows up, I promise you I will let Him come out."

That is not the way it is supposed to be. You have received a nature. You can yield to that nature anytime. You can choose to get angry, and maybe you have a right to get angry. But when you go the way of the Cross, you law down your rights. You lay down your rights. You choose not to get angry. Jesus said, "If somebody curses you, you should bless them. If they abuse you, pray for them." You say, "But that is not the way I am!" I know! The Lord knows! That is why He gave you Jesus. But not just the person of Jesus, but the nature of Jesus. Amen?

I hope this helped. It I made everything worse, forgive me. I just love Jesus. And I have got a lot to learn myself. But I mean well. I believe there are some things here that can help. and I ask you to search the scriptures, and seek to know the Lord. Thankyou so much for letting me speak. I love you all very much. God bless you.