**The Indwelling Christ**

 The term, “Indwelling Christ” quite obviously refers to the presence of Christ within every Christian. 1Jn. 5:12 tells us, “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” Col. 1:27 states, “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” 1Cor. 6:19 tells us, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” In these verses and many others the bible teaches us that Christ lives with each Christian.

 Question: Can the Indwelling Christ do anything besides indwell? Is Christ simply a constant but silent partner? Does He say anything or do anything or desire anything while He is indwelling? These are obviously rhetorical questions. Of course He is not just passively lying around somewhere inside us. He is the King of Kings and kings rule; that’s what they do. What anyone does is an outgrowth of who they are. The same is true for us. This is why the bible teaches us over and over who we are. God’s word is not a book of instructions, a field manual for human living; it is from Genesis to Revelation a story about Jesus and our union with Him. We have been made into new creations. We are not the same as we were. Through our union with Christ we can reign with Him in this life. Jesus Christ greatly desires to live His life through you, but He requires that you stop so that He might begin. I must decrease and He must increase. We need to learn who we are.

 Did Jesus exist before Mary? Of course. Did he indwell the body that God placed in Mary’s womb? Yes. We could call that body ”The Carpenter’s Body”. Did Christ indwell the carpenter’s body? Did He live His life through that body? In so doing Did He make the invisible God visible? Did He manifest, declare, show, God’s exact likeness by every word and movement of that body? Where is that body now? Since it is in heaven, seated on the right hand of God, can no one on Earth now see the invisible God? Is His image and likeness now lost to those on this planet? Is there another body spoken of in scripture? What is that other body, that existed during the days of the early church and still exists today? Isn’t it The Body Of Christ, the church? Aren’t we that body now? Is there any other way to make the invisible God visible today apart from the body of Christ? Since you are part of the body of Christ, does He indwell you? Did He live His life through the carpenter’s body? Is He living His life through your body? “always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.” 2Cor. 4:10-12. Did Paul believe that Christ could live His life through him? Do you? What did Paul need to do in order for Christ’s life to be made visible through him? Does death in this context still seem a bit scary to you? Is that the reason why we shy away from living like Paul? Consider Lu. 9:24, “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” I believe that this is what Paul meant by death working in him. He was constantly losing his life for Christ. “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Phil. 3:7-8 Our problem is that we don’t count our achievements and abilities as rubbish. We therefore cling to them. We hang onto ourselves. We jealously guard the control of our life. We refuse to give it up; therefore even though Christ indwells us no one else will benefit from His life through us. May God lead us to let go, to release, to unclench our tightly clinging fits; and present our bodies to Christ that He might have free reign in and through us; that out of our bellies might flow rivers of living water. What a privilege is ours.