

**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
THE CHURCH LIFE IN THE INWARD PARTS OF CHRIST JESUS**

Message One

**The Preeminence of Christ in Our Tripartite Being**

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:27; 3:4, 10-11, 15-16

**I. “Christ in you, the hope of glory”—Col. 1:27:**

- A. We worship the enthroned Christ in the heavens, but we experience, enjoy, and partake of the indwelling Christ in our spirit; we are one with Him in a very subjective way—3:1; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. Christ, who dwells in our spirit, is our hope of glory; the indwelling Christ will saturate our entire being that our physical body may be transfigured and conformed to the body of His glory—Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:21.
- C. We need to be infused, saturated, and permeated with the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ until in our experience He is everything to us—2:16-17; 3:4, 10-11.

**II. “Christ our life”—3:4:**

- A. Because Christ is our life, all He has and all He has attained and obtained become subjective to us—Rom. 8:24, 10.
- B. To say that Christ is our life means that Christ becomes us:
  - 1. Our life is our being; hence, for Christ to be our life means that He becomes our being.
  - 2. For Christ to become our being is for Christ to become us.

**III. “Christ is all and in all”—Col. 3:11:**

- A. The preeminent, all-inclusive Christ is the unique constituent of the new man.
- B. The content of the church should be nothing other than Christ; the constituent of the church should be Christ and Christ alone.
- C. We should allow the pure Christ to fill our entire being and replace every aspect of our natural being with Himself—Eph. 3:17.

**IV. “Let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts”—Col. 3:15:**

- A. The arbitrating of the peace of Christ is Christ working within us to exercise His rule over us, to speak the last word, and to make the final decision.
- B. The Greek term for *arbitrate* can also be rendered “umpire,” “preside,” or “be enthroned as a ruler and decider of everything”:
  - 1. For the proper Body life we need the peace of Christ to arbitrate, to adjust, to decide all things in our heart in the relationships between the members of His Body—Col. 3:15.
  - 2. In the Body life our heart should always be in a peaceful condition toward the members and thankful to the Lord.

**V. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”—Col. 3:16:**

- A. The word of Christ is the word spoken by Christ either directly or through His members—Heb. 1:1-2.

- B. The Greek word for  *dwell*  means “to inhabit,” “to be in a house”; this indicates that the word of Christ should be able to make its home in us.
- C. For the word of Christ to dwell in us richly means that it has adequate room in us; all of our inward parts—our mind, emotion, will, heart, and spirit—must be empty and available to be filled with the word of Christ.
- D. It is crucial for us to let the word of Christ enter into us, dwell in us, prevail in us, and replace our concepts, opinions, and philosophies.
- E. “Lord, I offer my whole being to You and to Your word. I give You access to every part of my inner being. Lord, make my inner being a home for Yourself and Your word.”