

The Christ-Loved, Christ-Lived, Christ-Led Life (conclusion) (Philippians 2:3-11)

The Christ-loved, Christ-lived, Christ-led Life is a life that is learning to yield absolutely, without condition or reserve, to the Lordship of Christ. His loving life increasingly takes our form and leads us to become the altars upon which He pours out His intercession for the world.

Philippians 2:3-11 gives us a clear and vivid description of the intercessory life of Christ. The foundational key seems to be "humility" (v3). To be humble is to retreat from self-absorption. Humility is the antidote to the poisonous effects of self-preservation and self-determination. In humbling ourselves before God and others, we discover that "selfishness" and "empty conceit" are not our true center any longer. As we bow before one will - God's - and give Him the final word, we find His Spirit leading us to "empty" (v7) ourselves of our own concerns and prerogatives and then to take upon ourselves the concerns of others (v4).

Now, as Christ has already done, we are becoming more and more able to identify with God's interests in others. The compelling love of God not only enables us to see them as God sees them - according to their needs, not just their faults - but also empowers us to move in their direction. There is no true intercession in detachment, in denial, or from a distance. Jesus Christ came in person, to be up close and "sit where the people sit." In cooperating with the compelling love of God we find a readiness to identify with God's interest in others and a willingness to be the answer to our own prayers: "Father bless them, love them, give truth to them, demonstrate your grace to them, show mercy to them... through me!"

Love is beginning to run its true course. We know the work of the cross (Christ's love) for us. We know the work of the cross (Christ's love) in us. Here we begin to know the way of the Cross - Christ leading us to be for others. We are willing to die - to our rights, our terms, our preferences, our agenda, our comfort - so others may live (II Co 4:10-12). Instead of this being a dark, resigned, frustrated way to live we find just the opposite. To be in step with the intent and action of God to love others into being is the most fulfilling and rewarding and energizing place to be. A "no" to personal preference becomes God's "yes" to personal joy. A "no" to self preservation becomes God's "yes" to personal peace. Our "no" to demanding fair becomes God's "yes" to grace sufficient for all our needs.

The humble, intercessory life that identifies with God's interests in others is the life that is "exalted", lifted up (v9). There is certainly an element of authority connected to that idea, but it is more about the authority to lay down our lives (Jo 10:18) than to have our own way. It's really more about perspective than power - as we bow before the Truth Himself, we are loved and liberated and led by Him into the truth of the situation in which we find ourselves.

This is the Christ-loved, Christ-lived, Christ-led life - life for others. This is the life in harmony, in compatibility with our God. This is the life open to every son and daughter of God. May it be our resolve in the coming year to voluntarily assume such a posture before our God!



TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION

One In Christ, Inc.

This financial gift is:

- A response to God's leading
- A monthly contribution
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Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



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GREETINGS

Although God does not seem to be bound or bothered by calendar dates, as time oriented creatures we require rhythms of rest and activity, seasons of sowing and reaping, even markers of memory and resolve.

The year 2009 was memorable for all of the above reasons for both OIC and the Pettit family. The conferences and counseling sowed seeds for what we hope to be a bountiful harvest for the kingdom. Renewing old friendships in numerous places and establishing new ones in just as many contributed to much joy. Two grandchildren changed the landscape of the Pettit family forever.

The year 2010 will have similar happenings yet also bring numerous surprises, I'm sure. Our regular Florida conference is always a highlight. **(PLEASE NOTE THE RESERVATION DEADLINES.)** We anticipate joyfully the making of new friends and sewing of new seeds in new venues as well. (Only a few dates left for 2010 - if you want a date - call quickly!)

Thank you for making 2009 a memorable and profitable year for the kingdom's sake. Your friendships, prayers, and faithful contributions are invaluable. Thank you for journeying together with us in 2010. We look forward to the richest year ever in the true knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Hope to see each and every one of you face-to-face before this time next year!

Steve

One In Christ, Inc.
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Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALENDAR

JANUARY

3,10,17,24,31	CCF
12	Alachua Study
15-16	Sebring, FL (863-382-6265)
22-23	River Cross Church, Gainesville, FL
26	Ocala Study

FEBRUARY

14	Mt. Dora, FL (352-728-8179)
*19-21	Florida Retreat (*see below)



2010 Florida Retreat



February 19-21
Alachua, Florida

"Full of Grace and Truth"
John 1:1-18

\$260 Couple - all inclusive

\$140 Single - 2 to q room

\$215 Single - 1 to a room

\$65 per person - conference and meals only

\$15 per person conference fee only

Reservation deadlines (\$50 per person):

Feb 1 for guaranteed room & meals

Feb 10 for meals only

(Feb 19 without room or meals)

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