



In Christ We Live

In the Gospel of John we hear Jesus say, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10) Jesus also says “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6) Jesus is bursting with life. Even the grave couldn’t hold him; he arose! Jesus’ life and resurrection make all the difference for those who choose to follow him. Baptism marks the new life as he or she is “buried with Christ and made to walk in newness of life in him.” Because Jesus lives, we too can live, now and beyond the grave. In Christ alone we find true life. This is the critical factor that sets the church apart from other communities or humanitarian/service organizations. We are truly resurrection people. In Christ we live.

The relationships between Christ-followers are set apart because we live in Christ. Christ is the common bond between us. One can meet another Christ-follower in a foreign place and there is an instant connection that bridges language, race, culture, and age differences; Christ connects us. When we live in Christ, relationships are marked by “friendship, love, and trust.”

The way we live in this world is shaped by the fact that we live in Christ. Christ-followers know Christ’s grace and peace personally and are transformed by it to the point that we live out grace and peace in the world. Knowing the life of Christ (which we did not earn) sets us free to share the life of Christ with others.

The reason we serve is because we live in Christ. “The One who came to give us life” has served us in the most astounding way. Christ served us with His life even to the point of death, bringing light into our darkness so those who follow Christ might bring the “darkness to the Light.” The way God sees the world shapes the way Christ-followers view and serve the world.

Our practices are shaped by the fact that we live in Christ. When we face brokenness in our world we must turn to Christ in prayer because we “trust our God’s unchanging love to make the broken whole.” We congregate, we gather, we “do church”, we meet together because we live in Christ. Our gatherings are marked by “worship, service, prayer and song”—all responses to the life we’ve received in Christ.

Those who follow Christ know and live into Christ’s life for Jesus changes everything. Christ is our model. Christ is our Savior. The Spirit of Christ is our guide. We, the church, are most fully ourselves when we are living in Christ. We are most broken and fractured when we stray from our life in Christ. It is true that we have an enemy who seeks to “steal, kill, and destroy.” It is essential, therefore, for our own sake and the world’s sake that we listen well to the words of Paul: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” Colossians 2:6–7 (NRSV). Resurrection people, “in Christ we live:” may we never forget.

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