

The Triune God Dwells WITHIN ALL who Receive Him

The Extraordinary Liberation of the Post-Pentecost-Gospel

To all who **received** him [Jesus]...He gave the privilege to become children of God. (John 1:12)

“You know [the Holy Spirit] for He [now] **dwells with you and will [soon] be in you.**” (John 14:17)

“Whoever abides in me and **I in him [or her]**, it is they that bears much fruit.” (John 15:5)

Jesus said, “I am in my Father, and you in me **and I in you.**” (John 17:20)

Jesus is praying to the Father, “The glory that you have given to me I have given to [the disciples] that they may be one even as we are one, **I in them...*** that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and **I in them.**”(John 17:22-23, 26)

“I [Jesus] am **with you always** to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

In his initial Pentecost sermon Peter quotes from the Old Testament prophet Joel, “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, **that I will pour out my Spirit on [ALL] flesh.**” (Acts 2:17a)

“But if **Christ is in you... your spirit is alive because of righteousness.**” * If the spirit of [the Father] who raised Jesus from the **dead dwells in you** (*oikei en humin*), He...will give life to your mortal bodies through **His spirit who dwells in you.**” (Romans 8:9-11)

“**God’s Spirit dwells in you** (*oikei en humein*)...and **you are that temple.**” (1 Corinthians 3:16,17)

“But we have this **treasure in jars of clay [us]**...so that the **life of Jesus** may also be manifested **in our mortal flesh.**” (2 Cor. 4:7,10)

“Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

“Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that **Christ is in you?**” (2 Cor. 13:5)

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ who lives in me.**” (Gal. 2:20)

“In [Christ] you also are being built together into a **dwelling place for God in the Spirit.**” (Eph. 2:22)

“That He may grant you to be strengthened with power through [**Christ’s**] **Spirit in your inner being**, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**” (Ephesians 3:16,17)

“...the riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” (Colossians 1:27)

“Therefore as you have **received Christ** as Lord, so live in Him.” (Col. 2:6)

“For [**Christ**] **who is in you** is greater than he who is in the world. * Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides in him.** (1 John 4:4, 15)

Jesus says, “If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, **I will come in to him and have fellowship with him.**” (Revelation 3:20)

The Book of Concord **denies** that the “new creations” (2 Cor. 5:17) are redeemed sinners, but instead Christ indwelling all who receive Him. (*Formula of Concord: Epitome*: “Erroneous Articles of

the Anabaptists.” No. 3, *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, 2005, (p.519). The “*new-self*” is Christ himself, living in and through us as we, day-by-day “*consider ourselves as both dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 6:11). Martin Luther stated, “**Christ Himself is the life that I now live... Therefore, this faith is no idle quality...**” (*Galatians*, Luther’s Works, v. 26, p.167,8).

Further relevant Scripture passages

“*You also must **consider yourself dead to sin and alive in Christ Jesus.***” (Rom. 6:11)

“*You also have **died to the law** so that you might belong ...to Him who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God.*” (Rom. 7:4)

“*Now we are released from the law, **having died to that which held us captive**, so that we serve, not in the...written code, but in the new way of the Spirit.*” (Rom. 7:6).

Summation

I suspect that the “good news” conveyed by these three passages appears elusive since they reference the following conditions: “*you **must,***” “*consider **yourself dead,***” and “***having died.***” Yet notice firstly that according to 7:6, what it is we in Christ die to is the **oppressive demands of the law**. Isn’t that liberating news? Further consider in 6:11 that it is **Jesus within us** who is doing the works of holiness through us. We effectively are Christ, “*coming along for the ride.*” What a relief! Thirdly notice from the same passage that it is our **self-centered ego** (as opposed to our natural traits) that we die to—the point being that God approves of our natural traits given at creation that aren’t associated with sinfulness. Finally, consider that we are *passive* participants in the matter of “death” to sin which means it is Christ himself who is producing the fruit (John 15:5). The solitary thing God asks of us is that we entrust ourselves to His goodwill. Why then shouldn’t we do so? After all, God having given us His Son for our salvation, how will he not give us truly good things that are consistent with His will? (Rom. 8:33). So let go and let God!

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