

Jesus Christ—Center of Our Experience

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Colossians 1.

B. Many Christians do not know Christ experientially.

II. Who Christ is.

A. Jesus is the image of the invisible God.

B. By Christ everything holds together.

C. Christ is the head of the church.

D. Christ will inherit all things. (Hebrews 1)

III. Paul wanted his body to be a vehicle for the glory of Christ. Jesus lives in our body, and he is our life. (Philippians 1:19; Colossians 1:27; 3)

IV. Experiencing the reality of Christ daily.

A. The indwelling word of the Holy Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3, John 14)

1. We can grieve the Spirit (Ephesians 4), quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5) and lie to the Spirit.

2. Nevertheless, the Spirit will never leave us.

B. Authorizing the Spirit to reprogram the mind. (Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4)

1. This is not an emotional encounter.

2. This is a day by day authorizing.

C. Practical suggestions.

1. We cannot experience the divine life apart from the promises of God in Scripture. (2 Peter 1:4)

2. We must pray. (Ephesians 1:14, 19; 3; Philippians 4:19)

3. We must confess sin. (John 14:5)

Application questions:

1. What role does the Spirit play in experiencing Christ today?

2. Which practical suggestion do you find yourself the weakest? How can you grow in this area? Explain.

3. What fears or hesitations do you have in giving authority over to the Spirit? Spend some time in prayer asking God for comfort and strength in those areas and write your reflections below.
