

Christ – Our Relationship to Everything!

God's method for Handling our Life

Scriptures: Col 1:15-20; John 15:5; John 14:6; 1 John 4:9; Col 3:4

Colossians 1:15 - 20 (NIV) ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation**. ¹⁶For **by him** all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created **by [through]** him and **for** him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and **in him all things hold together**. ¹⁸And he is **the head** of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that **in everything he might have the supremacy [Preeminence]**. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and **through him** to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Introduction:

A. Christ is the Way God deals with ALL THINGS.

- This is a profound truth!
- He will not touch anything except through His Son: we need to learn this lesson for our own life.
- We keep handling things through ourselves and that is why we are in a mess!

B. Col 1:15-20. Christ is the First place, the Starting place and the Finishing place for everything.

- (v.16) All things "by", "through", "for" HIM!
- (v. 17) all things find their fulfillment in Him alone
- (v18) Preeminent

- (v19) God's Magnificent Obsession is with His Son. You will never understand the hear of God until you get this.
- C. *John 15:5. Life is to be Processed THROUGH Christ.* (All experiences, Good and Bad)
- "Apart from me you can do nothing..."
 - Why? Because life is processed through the Son. He is the only "WAY" God has for life to work.
 - Everything, to grow, must stay in its proper environment: water for a fish, ground for a tree, air for a mammal, and Christ for man!
 - The most important word in the New Testament: "Through"! "Through Christ", "Through Him"
- D. *John 14:6. Apart from Christ we can not have a proper relationship with anything.*
- Our proper relationship with the Father starts with Christ.
 - "No one comes to the Father except THROUGH ME..."
 - Gal 4:6 – we enter into Christ's own relationship with the Father.
- E. **Christ is our relationship with everything -- positive and negative.**
- Col 3:4 – "Christ who is our life."
 - If He is our life, we handle EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM. What dos He think, feel, want, etc.
- F. *1 John 4:9. God's Secret: Handle life through Christ.*
- "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

- How would you finish that verse? Most would say, "God's love was manifested in this, that God sent His Son to die for our sins."

Christianity is not about a Belief system. It is about a WAY of dealing with, handling and processing all of life that is different from the worlds. It is God's one and only WAY: Living through Christ.

God wants to teach us His way of Handling all experiences in life: Handle Christ. Process everything through Him. (*Problems, sins, failures, emotions, possessions, experiences, thoughts, etc.*)

1. Christ -- our Relationship with the Father

Romans 8:15 (NIV) ¹⁵*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

A. **Our relationship to the Father is Christ's own.**

- Matt 11:27 – "All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."
- We enter into this unknown relationship by revelation the Son gives as a gift.
- This is really eternal life: 1 John 5:20

B. **God has only one relationship in this universe:** the one He has with the Son and gives to us as a gift.

- God is not establishing new relationships with others. He has ONE relationship with the Son and invites us into this "sonship".
- Our relationship with the Father is Christ.
- This is the meaning of grace.

C. **Gal 4:4-6. We have received the "sonship"**

- "...that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
- Rom 8:15 "received the spirit of sonship..."
- The sonship is the relationship between the Father and His Son.
- We do not have a separate "relationship" with God from Christ. It does not exist. We have the Son's relationship with the Father.
- **1 John 1:3 (NIV)** ³*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

D. **Don't inspect your relationship with God; inspect Christ's – enter into THAT relationship by faith.**

- When we get up each day, we tend to inspect "our relationship with God".
- Instead inspect Christ's. How is that relationship? It is yours!

2. Christ – Our relationship with sin

Rom 6:11 – *“So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

- A. **How do we deal with sin? We don’t. We deal with Christ who dealt with our sin.**
 - Our sin was dealt with already in Christ on the cross.
 - The whole body of sin was done away with:
 - Rom 6:6 – *“We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”*
 - When the devil brings up your sin, relate to Christ!
- B. **We died to sin in the death of Christ.**
 - This is in the aorist tense—once for all and forever
 - In yourself you are alive to sin. In Christ, you are dead to sin and alive to God.
 - In Christ is an expulsive relationship on sin.
- C. **The way we deal with sin is not to fight it in ourselves, but to enter into Christ who defeated it.**
 - Rom 7:21-25
- D. **When we do sin: Go to the Advocate not the accuser.**
 - 1 John 2:1-2

3. Christ – our relationship with our sinful nature

Galatians 5:24 (NIV) ²⁴*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

- A. **How do we overcome our sinful nature? Our only relationship of victory is with Christ.**
 - You cant clean a muddy floor with muddy hands.
 - You cant clean up your nature with your nature!
 - You have to deal with Christ’s nature.
 - In your light we see light”
 - Your relationship with your old nature WAS TERMINATED. 2 Cor 5:17
- B. **In Christ our old nature was terminated once for all.**
 - There are many aspects to the flesh:
 1. Lust of (Gal 5:16)
 2. Will of (John 1:13)
 3. Mind of (Rom 8:6-7)
 4. Works of (Gal 5:19)
 - In Christ as we walk in the spirit, these end.
- C. **Don’t deal with your nature; deal with Christ’s.**
- D. **Christ is your relationship with your nature now.**

4. Christ – our relationship with the world

Galatians 6:14 *“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which [through whom] the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”*

- A. **The world exerts a strong attraction away from the things of God.**
 - 1 John 2:15-17
- B. **Don’t run away from the world to fight against it; go to Christ.**
 - He is our burnt offering.
 - He is our consecration.
 - We are in Christ’s relationship with the world: FREE!
- C. **We are gathered out of the world to Christ – this is the ground of the church.**
- D. *John 17:15-16.* **We are “out of the world” because Christ is out of the world.**

5. Christ – our relationship with condemnation

Romans 8:1 (NIV) ¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

- A. **Many times we feel under the condemnation of the accuser.**
 - Satan’s name means “accuser”: this is his primary occupation!
 - How do we handle and process? Try to fight off? Control? Replace with good ones?
 - Maybe we cope with other things or just fall into depression?
- B. **The spiritual answer to this human disease is Rom 8:1.**
 - The answer to this human condition is to relate to Christ alone.
 - In Christ there is no condemnation: NONE!
 - Higher energies absorb and transform lower energies. (Eg light dispels darkness)
- C. *Rom 8:31-34.* **This is the way to handle condemnation: by handling Christ!**

6. Christ – our relationship with the devil

Jude 1:9 (NIV) ⁹*But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”*

- A. **Let Christ be your only relationship with the devil: keep him defeated.**
- Even the archangel Michael did not relate to satan: he related to the Lord and had the Lord rebuke him.
 - Spiritual warfare is not about attacking satan with our authority. It is about entering the authority of the Lord and resting in a battle ALREADY won.
 - We fight from victory not for victory.
- B. **At every stage of our Lord's life, He defeated the devil.**
- In his human life Matt 4:1-11)
 - In his death on the cross (Heb 2:14; Col 2:14-15)
 - In his resurrection (1 Pet 3:18-22; Rev 1:18)
 - In his ascension and enthronement (Eph 1:19-22)
 - In His building of the church (Matt 16:18-19)
 - In His indwelling the believers (1 John 4:4)
 - In His battle to bring in the kingdom (Rev 12:9-11)
 - In His millennial kingdom (Rev. 20:1-3)
 - In His eternal victory (Rev 20:10)
- C. **At any moment in conflict with satan's schemes against us we can just rest in Christ our realm of victory.**

7. Christ – our relationship to ourselves

2 Corinthians 5:14 - 15 (NIV) ¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer

live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

- A. **Christ has become our true relationship with ourselves.**
- A relationship to ourselves with ourselves has ended. Christ is now our true relationship to ourselves.
 - He has become our life (Col 3:4)
 - Gal 2:20
 - We are no longer the point of reference for who we are. Christ is. If He is our life we must only relate to ourselves from His perspective. Is He risen? So are we! Is He victorious? So are we!
- B. **Don't relate to yourself with yourself: relate to yourself with Christ as your life.**
- When we relate to ourselves with ourselves we do not know ourselves as we should. We see our sins, mistakes, shortfalls, problems, etc.
 - When we relate to ourselves with Christ, we see our righteousness, forgiveness, holiness, new nature, etc.
 - The self can not know the self truthfully. Why? We were made to live in God! He alone is our proper environment.
 - Christ is the owner's manual on self!
 - None of us knows ourselves without the light of Christ.
- C. **You are dead. You have lost the "rights" to your life.**
- **Romans 14:7 - 8 (NIV)** ⁷For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

8. Christ - our relationship to one another

2 Corinthians 5:16 (NIV) ¹⁶*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.*

A. 2 Cor 5:17. **We are to see one another "in Christ".**

- There is a new creation
- Old things have passed away
- All things have become new.

B. **Christ is my relationship to others now.**

- Paul felt the reality of this experience: Phil 1:8

C. **In Christ there is really only one new man that we are all baptised into.**

- 1 Cor 12:12-13
- Eph 2:13-16

9. Christ – our relationship to our problems

Philippians 4:11 - 13 (NIV) ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

A. **Paul learned to look at Christ not his problems.**

- Phil 4:11-13
- Paul handled things "through him", not through himself. This takes a new approach to life: Faith, NOT works!
- We have a Saviour and a "Helper" (Gr word for Comforter is "one-called-beside-to-help")

B. **Christ has ALREADY overcome anything you will face.** (*All "problems" have already been processed and won by Him in His redemptive work on the cross.*)

- Christ was subject to all human trials and WON! (He said, "satan has no place in me")
- The cross was a victory over every negative thing in the universe... not just sin, but all the effects of sin!
- Christ is the realm all problems have been conquered.
- Resurrection is the final victory stone.

C. *Phil 4:6-7.* **Process all problems through relating to Christ.**

- If you process problems yourself, they will show up again and again in different ways.
- If you process problems through Christ you will gain eternal redemption from them!
- Christians have as many (maybe more!) problems as everyone else. The difference is in our life Christ is working for our eternal freedom and redemption from them.
- The world settles for temporal solutions rather than eternal.

D. **Handle the victory not the problem. Use His divine resources!**

- What you focus on you get more of.

- Handle the solution before you face the problem.
- Problems are guides to point us to God's one solution.

Conclusion

Christianity is not about a Belief system. It is about a WAY of dealing with, handling and processing all of life that is different from the worlds. It is God's one and only WAY: Living through Christ.

God wants to teach us His way of Handling all experiences in life: Handle Christ. Process everything through Him. (*Problems, sins, failures, emotions, possessions, experiences, thoughts, etc.*)

John 15:5 (NIV) ⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**

1 John 4:9 (NIV) ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world **that we might live through him.**