

Colossians 1:27, *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

What Does “Christ in you, the hope of glory” Mean?

Colossians 3:1, *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

Christ In You Means...

- **Set Your Heart And Mind On Things Above**
(Colossians 3:1-2)
- **Put To Death The Sins Of The Flesh**
(Colossians 3:3-5)
Psalm 51:10, *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*
- **Your Relationships Draw Others To Christ**
(Colossians 3:7)

Our Relationships Draw Others To Christ, When We...

1) **Rid Ourselves Of RELATIONAL SINS**

Colossians 3:8, *But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices...*

- **A-ANGER** - Habitual Angry Attitude
- **R-RAGE** - Temper Tantrum
- **M-MALICE** - Hidden Hatred That Seeks Revenge
- **S-SLANDER** - Verbal Attack On Someone’s Character
- **L-LANGUAGE** - Foul Talk Or Course Language
- **L-LYING** - Untruth Or Half Truth That Breeds Suspicion

Hebrews 12:15, *See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*
Colossians 4:6, *Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt...*

2) **Renew Ourselves In The IMAGE OF CHRIST**

Colossians 3:10, *...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

Matthew 11:19, *The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”*

Luke 5:27, *After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, ²⁸and Levi got up, left everything and followed Him. ²⁹Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to His disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

3) **Break Down UNHOLY BARRIERS**

Colossians 3:11, *Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

The Church Should Not Set Up:

- **EDUCATIONAL** - Barriers Need to Be Destroyed
- **ECONOMIC** - Barriers Need to be Destroyed
- **ETHNIC** - Barriers Need to be Destroyed

Two Closing Action Steps:

- 1) **Explore God Campaign:** Please prayerfully consider hosting a discussion group at your house September 13-October 25. Fill out the bottom of the Explore God insert and take it to the Explore God table in the Atrium or drop it in a Tithe and Offering Box.
- 2) **Communion:** Cross some Educational, Economic or Ethnic Barriers today as you move to the Communion table. Go out of your way to introduce yourself to someone you don't know. In doing so, you will be renewing yourself in the "image of your Creator."