

#1 - LIVING MEANS CHRIST (The New Self)

For Paul, All God Meant Life to Be Is in Christ - "For me, to live is Christ"

- Its origins, its essence, its aim
- He is its horizon, its vision

It Is Very Personal (not impersonal)

- Life comes FROM a Person, THROUGH a person, TO a person - Jo 3:16
- A very personal union with God - Jo 14:3

It Is Very Participatory (not anticipatory)

- It is participation in the life of God
- It involves the whole man
 - ...spirit: indwelt by Divinity
 - ...soul: turned and tuned to The Spirit
 - ...body: presented as a living and holy sacrifice

Three Options for "Being":

- Can be God
- Can be a creature separated from God
- Can be a human creature joined to God

Pre-Christian Self

common self

sinful self

self for self

separated self

Living Means...

trying to create/complete myself

self cleansing/improvement

self preservation/protection

find something/one join myself to

LIVING MEANS (MY)SELF!

Christian Self

uncommon self

righteous self

self for others

self in union

Living Means...

God in me

right-ness of being

life for others

peace, rest, joy, contentment

LIVING MEANS CHRIST

"If Christ is my _____, am I ever without _____?"

When We Are Centered in Christ...

We Have a New Focus

- Christ is the subject, all else is predicate - Ga 2:20
- We focus on the center, not the boundaries - Col 1:18

We Have a New Language/Conversation

- From "How can?" to "Who can" - Ro 7:24
- From "followship" to "fellowship"
- From "trying" to "trusting"

We Have a New Identity

- We are identified by the indwelling nature - I Jo 3:1
- Once I was _____, now I am _____

We Have a New Radicalness

- The way of sacrificial love
- "Not I, but You"