

CHRIST-ENLIVENED
Colossians 1:25-27; II Peter 1:3,4

The Very Nature of Jesus Christ Is to Be at the Center (of all things) - Col 1:16-18,27

Overcoming the Deadly Distance - Eph 4:18

- The human dilemma is one of separation from God - Acts 2:39
...without the Life of God in us, we are "dead" - Eph 2:1,5; Col 2:13
 - Only the Uncreated can bridge the infinite gap between us - Jo 1:14,16; 3:16
...Christ comes in Person to enliven us with His life - Jo 1:4; 11:25,26
- (We were made for His Life - we will be in anguish until we have it - Ro 8:19,22)**

The Saving Life of Christ:

- His Incarnation - Jo 1:14
...when a human being is lost, all of God comes to find him - Lk 19:10
 - His Crucifixion - II Cor 5:21
...when a human being is lost, all of God comes to die for him - Matt 20:28; Ro 5:6-8
 - His Resurrection - Ro 6:4-5; Ro 5:10
...when a human being is "dead", all of God comes to enliven him - I Jo 5:11,12
- (No More Separation! - I Cor 6:17; Ro 8:35-39; Heb 13:5)**

Everyone Trusting in Christ Has a Christ-enlivened Life - Col 1:27; II Pet 1:3,4

- A new "anthropology" - II Cor 5:17
...Christ Himself is our source - Ga 2:20
...A self in union with Christ replaces a self in separation from Him - Jo 14:3; 17:24
...Christ's abundant (eternal) life becomes the life of our lives - Jo 1:4; 10:10
- Enlivening us to fully and properly function according to the intent and design of our Creator - Gen 1:26
...A human "container" with a Divine Source - Jo 14:6; II Cor 4:7
...All His fullness dwells in us - Jo 1:16; Col 2:9,10
...Giving us true vitality, true fertility, true identity - Jo 15:1-11

(Our one concern - to abide in the True Vine... the Life of our lives! - Jo 15:5)

**Christ-Esteem
Colossians 1:13-23**

In Any Culture, Self Centeredness Is a "Sickness Unto Death" - Prov 14:12

Jesus Christ Is at the Center of All Creation and All Re-creation - Col 1:13-23

- At the Center Is Christ: The Personal Deliverer - Col 1:13-14

...He is no correction to creation gone bad - He is the reason for creation! - Col 1:16

- At the Center Is Christ: The Personal Discloser of God - Col 1:15

...He makes known, explains God to us - Jo 1:18

- At the Center Is Christ: The Personal Designer of All That Is - Col 1:16-18

...He has the pre-eminence... first place in all things - Col 1:18

- At the Center Is Christ: The Personal Delight of God - Col 1:19

...Everything that is in Christ is pleasing to God - Col 1:27

- At the Center Is Christ: The Personal Destiny of All Things - Col 1:20

...Wherever all things are headed, we are going there with Him - I Cor 15:20-57

This Is One You Will Esteem/Worship - Ro 11:33-36

- We proclaim Him (no one needs more that this Christ gives) - Col 1:28

- We humble ourselves before Him (all is relative to Him) - I Pet 5:6; I Cor 4:7

- We esteem Him above all - Is 2:22; Lk 16:15

...our unsurpassing value - Matt 13:44-46; Phil 3:7-10

...our single, fixed focus - Matt 6:22,23; I Jo 3:3

...our one thing needful - Lk 10:38-42; Heb 3:1

We Esteem Him As the Way, the Truth, the Life - Jo 14:6

- "You, and You alone, are the Way"... our source and supply for all things Christian - II Pet 1:3,4

- "You, and You alone, are the Truth"... the Truth is what God says - Jo 17:7

- "You, and You alone, are the Life"... our relationship to all things - Col 3:4

CHRIST-ESTEEM

John 14:6

Self-absorption, self-centeredness is a sickness unto death (Narcissus!) - Ro 6:23; Is 2:22

"I AM THE WAY" - Yes, You Are the Way! - Jo 1:38-39; 5:19,30; 6:38; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10

- We abide in Christ as the Source, the Supply for all things - Jo 15:5
...all fruitfulness, all fearlessness, all joyfulness - Jo 15:1-11
- The "way" of abiding calls for abandonment - Jo 15:10
...what the "branch" cannot produce, the "Vine" can provide - Jo 15:5
- We abide in Him for all we need, we abandon to Him and discover He is enough!

"I AM THE TRUTH" - Yes, You Are the Truth! - Col 3:17

- The Truth is what God says - Jo 17:17
...any pursuit of life apart from Christ is the pursuit of a lie - II Tim 4:3,4
- To esteem Christ is to practice "But God says..." - Matt 26:38-39
- Christ centered, esteemed decision making - Col 3:14-17
...when we esteem Christ, we let His Word lead - Col 3:16
...when we esteem Christ, we let His Peace rule - Col 3:15
...when we esteem Christ, His Name is our standard for all valuation - Col 3:17
...when we esteem Christ, His Love is our motivation - Col 3:14; II Cor 5:14
- Setting our minds on His Truth - Phil 4:8
...making use of our God-given "garbage sifter"
..."If what I am about to do is not _____, then I cannot esteem, honor Christ with it"

"I AM THE LIFE" - Yes, You Are the Life! - Jo 1:4; 5:26,39-40

- God's Life...
...for us ...in us ...through us - Jo 10:10
- "...it is no longer I who _____, but Christ Who _____ in me..." - Ga 2:20

Esteem Christ as the Way and not be so easily entangled in all the others "ways".

Esteem Christ as the Truth and not be so easily captured by all the "lies" out there.

Esteem Christ as the Life and not be so vulnerable to searching for life from other "sources".

"Christ-Edited"
(Philippians 1:6; Exodus 20:3; Acts 1:8)

God's Editorial Promises: 1) "I will finish what I've begun" - Phil 1:6
2) "You will have no other gods before Me" - Ex 20:3
3) "You shall be My witnesses" - Acts 1:8

Jesus Christ Is Unbending Truth - Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8; Ja 1:17
- He edits out of us what didn't come from God - Heb 12:2
...unalloyed lies ...mixtures of Truth and error - Heb 4:12
- So we may experience the freedom for which He set us free - Jo 8:32,36; Ga 5:1

Jesus Christ Is Unending Love - Jo 13:1; I Jo 4:7-8,19
- He edits out of us anything not born of His Love - I Cor 13:4-8
...we must lose the practice of self-interest as the basis of our reality - II Cor 5:14
- So we may experience the fearlessness of being perfectly loved - I Jo 4:16-18

Our Editor-In-Chief Speaks the Truth in Love - Eph 4:15
- Love that is truthful, truth that is loving edits out incentives to sin - Eph 4:20-24
...we become free and fearless storytellers of our Truthful and Loving Savior - Acts 1:8; I Cor 12:7
- His grace pleads for a willing cooperation to be edited - Jo 15:1-15; Matt 19:21
...to center ourselves in Him as the Center of all things - Ro 11:36
...embracing His disciplines - Heb 12:1-11

Spiritual Disciplines:	<u>(Discipline)</u>	<u>(Editorial effect)</u>
- The ones we "choose":	Bible/Scriptures (II Tim 3:15-16)	...our intoxication with self-determination/definition
	Prayer (Jer 33:3; I Thess 5:17)	...separated, disconnected perspectives
	Fasting (Matt 16:18)	...deceptive authoritative voices of body/soul
	Thank God for everything (Eph 5:20)	...that appearances determine reality; partial tells whole story
	Secret service (Matt 6:1-4)	...have to be noticed, validated, affirmed by others
- The Ones God Chooses:	"Uninvited Angels" (Lk 1:26ff)	...illusions, fantasies of control (= surrendered to Him)
	"Thorns" (II Cor 12:7-10)	...pride, self-sufficiency (= humility)
	"Tombs" (Jo 11:1-46)	...trying hard (= trusting Him)
	"Cross" (Lk 9:23,24)	...demands for fair, comfort (= live for sake of other; "intercessor")

- So He can tell His "new creation" story with our lives - II Cor 5:17; Ro 8:19

THE CHRIST EXPRESSED LIFE (Part 1)

Everything Christ Gives Us Is Livable - Phil 1:21

- We are in a cooperative union, employed in the daily choosing of trusting Christ - Col 2:6; Phil 2:13
...willing for Christ to be the "Willer" - Jo 7:17
- Divine expression requires Divine Supply - Jo 1:16; Col 2:9-10; II Pet 1:3,4
..."not I, but Christ" - Ga 2:20
...we boast of our inability and of His ability - Jo 15:5; Phil 4:13
- A life of personal embodying - Jo 1:14; II Cor 6:16
...born not of self consciousness, but of Christ consciousness - Col 3:1-4
...a matter of adjusting to His pre-eminence - Col 3:5ff
...by faith we exercise our "response" ability - Jo 20:21

Expressions in Our Personal Lives - Col 3:5-14

- We "put off" old expressions of the self-focused life - Col 3:5-9
...expressions of idolatry - Col 3:5-7
...expressions of self-preservation - Col 3:5-9
- We "put on" new expressions of the Christ-focused life - Col 3:10-14
...expressions of our chosenness, holiness, belovedness - Col 3:12
...expressions of life for others - Col 3:12-14

Expressions in Our Decision Making - Col 3:14-17 (See Christ-esteem notes)

Expressions in Our Family Life - Col 3:18-19

- Manage: Husbands and Wives - Col 3:18-19
...Spouses are to edify, affirm, and bring the best out of one another...
= Christ-centered, Spirit-filled femaleness will submissively love - Col 3:18
= Christ-centered, Spirit-filled maleness will sacrificially love - Col 3:19
...The submissive, sacrificial love of Christ will not pit us against each other but render each for the other!
- Parents and Children:
...calls for the same submissive, sacrificial love of Christ - Col 3:20,21
...plan to: take care of your marriage... practice what you preach... pay focused attention...
teach them the law of the harvest... love their reality over your dreams of them

Expressions in Our Vocational Life - Col 3:22 - 4:1

- The emphasis is more on the worker than the "job" - Col 3:17; I Cor 10:31
...we work enthusiastically ("heartily") - Col 3:22
...we work ethically ("singleness of heart") - Col 3:22
...we work excellently ("for the Lord") - Col 3:23
...we work with an eternal perspective ("from the Lord you will receive") - Col 3:24
- Every time we "go to work" we are on a "mission trip" - I Pet 3:15

THE CHRIST EXPRESSED LIFE (Part 2)

Jesus Christ: The Church's "Living Head" - Col 1:13,14,19-22; 2:13-15

- The Church's Liberator - Col 1:13
- The Church's Lord - Col 1:18; 2:10
- The Church's Lover - I Jo 4:18
- The Church's Life - Col 2:13; 3:4

When We Are Centered in Christ, We Function as the Church - Col 2:19

- He becomes our relationship to all things - Col 1:28
- To belong to Him is to belong to His family - Col 1:2
...a community of interpersonal relations - Col 4:7-18

In a Caring Community:

- People communicate, reveal themselves - Col 4:7-9
...a safe, caring refuge for our "humanity" - Col 1:4-6
...intent: to bring the best out of one another - Col 4:6
- People welcome, receive, accept one another - Col 4:10; Ro 15:7
...confers intrinsic value on one and all - I Cor 12:7
...intent: to make the empty spots inviting - Matt 25:35,43; Ill Jo 1:5; Ro 12:13
- People encourage and affirm one another - Col 4:8; Eph 4:29
...be to others what Christ is to you - Jo 14:16,26; 15:26,27; 16:7,13-15
...intent: to pay attention to others - Heb 10:23-25
- People find personal healing - Col 4:11
...as we care and help, Christ is free to cure and heal - Heb 12:12,13; Ja 5:16
...intent: to enter into the pain, suffering of others - I Cor 12:26; II Cor 1:7; Col 1:24
- People demonstrate deep personal concern - Col 4:13
...care enough to build up and challenge one another - Cor 4:12,17
...intent: to pay the price so others go free - Col 1:24; Phil 2:17

Each of Us Has a Role in the Body of Christ to Be Fulfilled - Col 4:17

- Our mission: to be ourselves (the "you" God made you to be) - Lk 17:19; Acts 5:20
- Our ministry: take what we have freely received from Christ and freely give it away - Matt 10:8

..."Each person is given something to do what shows Who God is... and the variety is wonderful!"
- I Cor 12:7; The Message