

## The Christ-Centered Life (Christ-esteem)

The cessation of self reflection, self obsession, self worship can be reduced to a simple word: HUMILITY! Bowing before God as our highest good renders a holy self-forgetfulness. Bowing before One Will - His - confesses His interests above our own. To humble ourselves before Christ is to esteem Him as the Way, the Truth, and the Life (that we are all looking for). To profess Christ alone as the way, the truth, and the life makes Him a threat to all other ways, truths, and lives.

To esteem Christ is to say, "Your ways are better than mine." I choose loving over lusting, trusting over trying, serving over being served. Your ways - not mine - are full of vitality and fruitfulness. To esteem Christ is to say, "Your truth is truer than mine." What you have to say is more accurate and more complete than my thinker or feeler, than the cultural experts, than majority opinion. To esteem Christ is to say, "Your life is livelier than mine." Yours is not only life for me, but also in me and through me. Living is not about the perfection of my character, but the expression of your nature.

Esteem Christ as the way and we are not so easily entangled in all the other ways. Esteem Him as the truth and we are not so easily captured by lies. Esteem Jesus Christ the Lord as the life and we are not quite so vulnerable to counterfeit sources. In esteeming Christ above all we become Christ-centered. Heliotropium is the name for a plant whose characteristic tendency is to turn and face the sun at all times - even on a cloudy day! What we are calling Christ-esteem is a similar idea. We are learning to turn and tune ourselves to Christ in all things, finding out orientation in a Christ-centered universe. Christ-reflection overtakes self-reflection. Christ-centeredness casts our self-centeredness. Christ-consciousness dominates self-consciousness. We experience an awakening of our spiritual senses and appearances no longer trap us as being ultimate reality. The partial no longer masquerades as the whole.

Esteem Christ above all, and Spirit kicks flesh's "unholy but"! Excuses and rationalizations fall by the wayside as the primacy of Christ and His truth comes to the foreground of our lives.

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Please inform us of any changes to your address



👏 **GREETINGS** 👏

Our Florida Retreat is finally scheduled for March 3-5, 2017. Due to local events, motel costs, and a few other variables we had to change our regular February dates and meet in March. We hope this will not create problems for any of our regulars who often plan a Florida trip in February! (Same motel and same meeting venue as in previous years.)

Our 2017 conference schedule is quickly filling. If you would like an event in your area - or a "destination retreat" (Bahamas anyone?) - let us know as soon as you can.

Thanks for your prayers and concern during hurricane Hermine. We did not take a direct hit but were without electricity for a couple of days. No A/C, no running water (on a well) - it's amazing how many daily blessing we take for granted! A few days without them - and not knowing when they may return - can do wonders for a fresh appreciation of so many of our needs and luxuries we fail to regularly thank God for.

Which reminds me—thank God for each and every one of you!

 **CALENDAR** 

**OCTOBER**

2,16,23,30 CCF  
7-9 Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)  
11 Alachua Study  
25 Ocala Study

**NOVEMBER**

4-6 San Antonio, TX (210-306-4182)  
18-20 Waverly, OH (770-947-8004)



**2017 Florida Retreat**



March 3 - 5, 2017  
Alachua, Florida

**\$50 deposit Due February 5th, 2017**

\$295 Couple - (meals and room)  
\$250 Single - 1 to room (meals and room)  
\$165 Single - 2 to room (meals and room)  
\$70 conference and meals (no room)

( for further details call 386-418-0913 or  
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