

The Christ-Centered Life (Christ-edited, Part 2)

As Christ-enlivened ones, we are free persons at the center. Unlike the grapes in the vineyard, the clay at the potter's house, or the manuscript on the editor's desk, we may refuse or cooperate with the pruner, the potter, the editor's hands. This is how we come to know that true union is not only purifying (last month), but also participatory. (See verses like Matt 19:21 - "if you wish to be whole...")

We chose to cooperate by presenting ourselves to God with a non-selective readiness to be edited, to be changed - by Him! This counters our misplaced faith in ourselves to be our own editors. This replaces a limited and conditional interest in God with an unlimited and unconditional interest. We may do so by something as simple as greeting Jesus Christ as "Lord" of every life event - every happiness, every sorrow; every gain, every loss; every laugh, every tear. We center ourselves rightfully before Him as the Center of all things (Ro 11:36). We properly use our "Amen" (improperly used as an empty word are the end of an empty prayer) to signify a conversion of trust and action within us as we accept His editorial changes to our story. In so doing we are moved from mere "theological awareness" to actual "operational oneness" (Matt Danuser) -and we live from Christ the Center! (Jo 7:17; 13:17; Matt 7:24)

Through it all, we do not "lightly regard" the disciplines that keep us centered in Christ (Heb 12:5). There are disciplines that we are free to choose to connect, to commune, to abide, to say at home: scriptures, prayer, fasting, silence, solitude, stewardship, et al. Then there are the ones God chooses for us, where He determines the conditions necessary for our Christ-centered, Christ-edited needs and puts them into motion: thorns, chains, crosses, darkness, wilderness, storms, et al. (Never forget: suffering that leads to truth is preferable to comfort that keeps us in error!)

Our Editor in Chief is insistent, but respectful. He is, in all things, calling us to lovingly cooperate with His editing operation. He is editing our "B.C." errors with "A.D." truths. He is inviting us to learn and to live from our spiritual freedom, our spiritual responsibility, our spiritual authority that empowers us to cooperate with His life in us. For example, listen to II Cor 7:1 - "...let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement..." I don't read anywhere where God says He will do this without our consent! (See also the "put off" and "put on" passages of Eph. 4 and Col. 3.) As we are graced with the truth, we are learning to delete every error, every lie about God, ourselves, and others. So that the story we tell is a new creation story - one being read by all of creation to God's glory (Ro 8:19).

✕ -----

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*
by mailing your gifts to the address above
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -
www.stevepettitmessages.com
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -
can be arranged by calling Steve at
386-418-0913 or 352-672-1275
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** -
email your request to OICnewsletter@gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



Please inform us of any changes to your address



 **GREETINGS** 

I'm not sure on which side of the political aisle you may sit, but I am fairly sure of this: when most of us woke up on the day after our national election, those of us who read this newsletter were absolutely thrilled that the government of our lives did not rest upon the shoulders of anyone in Washington, D.C.! (See Is 9:6.)

There is no political angst surrounding the throne of God, but there is kingdom rest. This is no call to stick our heads in the sand and hang on until Jesus Christ comes (although tomorrow would not be too soon!). There is certainly, in every fallen country and every man-made government, a legitimate call for sorrow and grief, for confession and lament. However, we do not "grieve like the rest, as those without hope." (I Thess 4:13)

We live every day with a passion for what is possible because Christ is with us. We greet every day (and every event in our day) with "Jesus is Lord." And whining is changed to worship. Hubris is changed to humility. And we are changed - changed ever more into the likeness of Christ as we "see through" appearances and into the righteous reign and rule of our God. And the angst - which is temporal - pushes us into His rest - which is eternal. To God be the glory!

DECEMBER

4,11,18 CCF (no CCF mtg on 12/25; 1/1/17)
****6** Ocala Study - ****NOTE CHANGE**
 13 Alachua Study

JANUARY

6-8 The Hill, Hardin, KY (270-437-4172)
 27-29 San Antonio, TX (210-478-0618)

February

10-12 Moab, UT (859-393-4104)

 **2017 Florida Retreat** 

Tradition or Truth?

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 email OICnewsletter@gmail.com)