

The Government of the Living Spirit II Corinthians 3:1-18

"The government of the living Spirit" implies what? That there is a "Governor" and the "governed"! To be governed is to be under the influence of Another - it is the opposite of sitting on the throne, wearing the crown, setting the terms. The government of the living Spirit may be a wonderful concept - but the reality can, at times, be quite different.

Paul certainly testifies that the Spirit's governing influence is "dazzling", "radiant", "affirming", "hopeful", "liberating" (see various translations)... yet let's not forget:

- ...He is a loving Spirit: He loves us enough to tell us the truth (even when we don't want to hear it).
- ...He is a dis-illusioning Spirit: He intends to "dis" us of all our illusions about Himself, ourselves, and others ("I thought He had a wonderful plan for my life?" ...He does...to smash all your illusions!)
- ...He is an intruding Spirit: He rarely invades our "space" to discuss or debate anything, or, to ask our permission ("Would this be a good time to pull the rug out from underneath your feet?") He comes "proclaiming" (Mk1:14-15).

He is a "governing" Spirit. Our mission on earth, then, is a "sub" mission - to be sent out under the authority of Another. In every life event, we are directed to "put the government of our lives upon His shoulders" (Is 9:6) To have authority, we must be under authority (see Matt 8:5,13). Question: Who/What have we authorized to govern, to teach, to guide, to influence, to tell us how to invest our lives?

Under the governing influence of the Holy Spirit, spirit begins to take precedence over soul and body, appearances no longer determine ultimate reality, and love (not fear) becomes the motive force behind our choices. We may resist, grieve, quench the government of the living Spirit - authorize voices other than His to influence us. Or, we may present ourselves to Him in a non-selective readiness to be governed by Him - to live by His "say so". The former results in a manner of living as though we were excluded from His Life, His Supply (Eph 4:17-19). The latter yields an operational oneness with the Spirit of Christ Himself... He, being and behaving Himself... as us. Life as God intended it to be!

✕-----

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*
13820 NW 172nd Ave, Alachua, FL 32615
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -
www.stevepettitmessages.com
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -
can be arranged by calling Steve at 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

Our plan is to drop our land line phone number (386-418-0913) by January 1st, 2020. We will use my cell phone number as 352-672-1275 for all phone contacts thereafter.

Our Florida retreat (February 21-23, 2020) will be around the theme of "Life Together". We will dig deeply into the letter of I John to mine the nuggets therein of life together with God and with one another. Note the deadline of February 1st for room and meal reservations.

Some of you have been asking, "What's it like to be retired?" My answer, "I don't know - I'm not retired!" Although CCF met last in July and then closed up to replant itself in another local church start, One In Christ goes on. Which leads me to say, if you have any thoughts, desires, or plans to do a meeting together contact us soon. 2020 is beginning to fill up.

And finally, if "Thank God for everything" (Eph 5:20) has been on the periphery lately, November is a good time to jump start it back into the center of our devotedness. Thanking God for everything is no "holiday", but a holy way to stay centered in Him in the "all things" of life, every day of the year!

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

8-10 Calais, ME (207-454-2579)
12 Alachua Study

DECEMBER

3 Ocala Study

2020 Florida Retreat



February 21-23
Gainesville, Florida



"Life Together" (I John)

\$50 deposit (per person) due by February 1, 2020

\$325 per Couple (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$275 - per person, single room (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$170 - per person, 2 to a room (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$75 per person (meals & retreat fee - no room)



Praise & Prayer



Our indwelling Guide



Our life together with Christ and each other



2020 Florida Retreat



Living under the Spirit's governing voice

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
ALACHUA, FL
PERMIT NO. 11

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, FL 32615