



“CHRIST IN ME.” SO WHAT?

CRAIG REES • 20 NOVEMBER 2022

Key Scriptures: Galatians 2:20-21; John 4:10-14; 7:37-39; Isaiah 12:2-3a; Revelation 22:1-2; Luke 14:15-24

Big Question: What difference does it make to have Christ living in us?

Key Resource: David G. Benner, *Surrender to Love* (Expanded Addition, IVP, 2015).

- 1. Take a moment to reflect on the difference Christ makes in your life. How have you experienced Christ directly and personally at work in you?**
- 2. Galatians 2 says that, because of Christ, neither the law nor our egos are the controlling forces for the direction of our lives. What does it mean to say that the ego is no longer the controlling force for the direction of your life?**
- 3. With Pastor Craig’s floating illustration in mind, consider whether you are more prone to tread water or float.**
 - a. In what ways do we tread water in our relationship with God?**
 - b. What are the adverse effects of treading water?**
- 4. While floating may seem a strange way to describe the positive implication of ‘being in Christ,’ there are plenty of Scriptures connecting the work of both Christ and the Spirit to water. Spiritually speaking, what value does water have? What do John 4:10-14 and 7:36-39 say we need to do to receive this living water?**
- 5. This is a more theological question that some may want to skip. Read John 7:36-39 in a few different translations. Do you see any subtle differences in how the verses have been translated?**

6. David Benner, in his excellent book, *Surrender to Love*, writes, “Those who surrender obey. But not all who obey surrender. It is quite possible to obey God for the wrong reasons. What God desires is submission of our heart and will, not simply compliance in our behavior.”
 - a. How do Christians obey for the wrong reasons?
 - b. How do you think God views our compliance?
 - c. Read Romans 6:17. How do you understand the submission of the heart and will?
7. If obedience is being willing, surrender is being willful. Discuss this statement from David Benner: “If the core of Christian obedience is listening to God's will, the core of surrender is voluntarily giving up our will.” How easy is it for you to voluntarily give up your will?
8. Daring to accept ourselves for who we are is the backbone of personal transformation. Accepting our brokenness for what it is and what it says about us is the key to experiencing God's unconditional love. We are called to linger long enough in His presence for our brokenness to be made whole. This is the power of Christ in us. Think of ways you can linger more in God's presence. If you are looking at these questions as a group, share ways you linger longer.