

THE CHURCH AND ITS CALLING

THE AUTHENTICATION OF MY FAITH

SOCIAL CHRISTIAN OR TRUE CHRIST-FOLLOWER



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

COLOSSIANS 2.6-7

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH WILL WE BE?

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people . . . the gospel [that] is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.

COLOSSIANS 1.3-6

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. . . . be earnest and repent.

REVELATION 3.15-17, 19

- ▶ The church at Colossae continued to grow: in faith in Christ, in love for the body of Christ, in the hope of attaining heaven.
- ▶ The church at Laodicea was self-absorbed and without any sense of need for Christ. They were Christians in name only— *social Christians*, not true Christ-followers.
- ▶ What is a “social Christian”? For something to be “Christian,” it must be identifiable with Christ, that is, Christ-like.
- ▶ This was the problem with the church at Laodicea: they called themselves Christians, they did church things but they were empty of the life of Christ. They lived their own lives, not the Christ-life.

DEFINING “LIFE IN CHRIST”

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COLOSSIANS 2.6-7

- ▶ “received” - to receive, admit, acknowledge
- ▶ “Christ” - the Anointed One, the Messiah; the one and only representative of God; the eternal King of truth and righteousness
- ▶ “Jesus” - the Savior-God who died an atoning death for our sins
- ▶ “Lord” - supreme in authority, i.e. controller; Master

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COLOSSIANS 2.6-7

- ▶ "continue" - to maintain a certain life and conduct
- ▶ "rooted" - cause to take root; constant, firmly fixed
- ▶ "built up" - to build up in spiritual advancement; to build on your confession of faith in Christ
- ▶ "strengthened" - to make strong and unwavering; to verify
- ▶ "taught" - to teach in a public assembly; to direct, admonish
- ▶ "overflowing" - abundant, over and above; to be more prominent

LIVING THE CHRIST LIFE

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COLOSSIANS 2.6-7

- ▶ Have I truly received Christ Jesus as Lord of my life? Have I been born again? Am I a new creation in Christ? Do others identify me with Christ and see that He is in charge of my life?
- ▶ Am I living the Christ-life—from the inside out? Do I have a deep love for Christ and deeply desire to know Him and live for Him? Am I filling my mind with His word and praying to become more like Him?

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COLOSSIANS 2.6-7

- ▶ Am I building a life in Christ—is He my passion, my focus, the goal of my life? Or am I building my life around my own desires and goals? Do I pursue learning more about Him? Do I love being with His body?
- ▶ What changes can I see in my life? In what ways can I see that I am more like Christ? Do other believers know that I truly love them? Am I looking forward to and living for the return of Christ?
- ▶ Is thankfulness a predominant characteristic of my life? Do I see God's goodness in every circumstance and give Him thanks?



And now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him.

And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.

1 JOHN 2.28-29; 3.23-24