

## *Doctrine of the Indwelling of Christ*

1. At the point of faith in Christ, Jesus indwells the believer and as long as the believer is positive toward God's protocol or "hot" for doctrine, Christ remains for fellowship. Being hot for doctrine includes being confessed-up and wanting more doctrine.

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

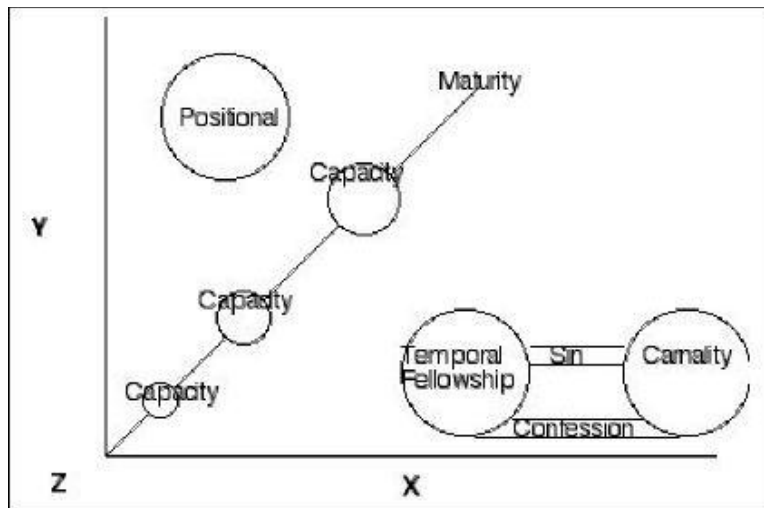
Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth ...

Rev 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

2. Appreciating the maximum benefit from the indwelling of Christ is not permanent since we all go through periods of negative volition toward the Word. When we are negative, Christ is not at home in our hearts. It is then Christ steps outside and knocks with discipline. We never lose the indwelling of Christ but we often lose the appreciation of that indwelling.

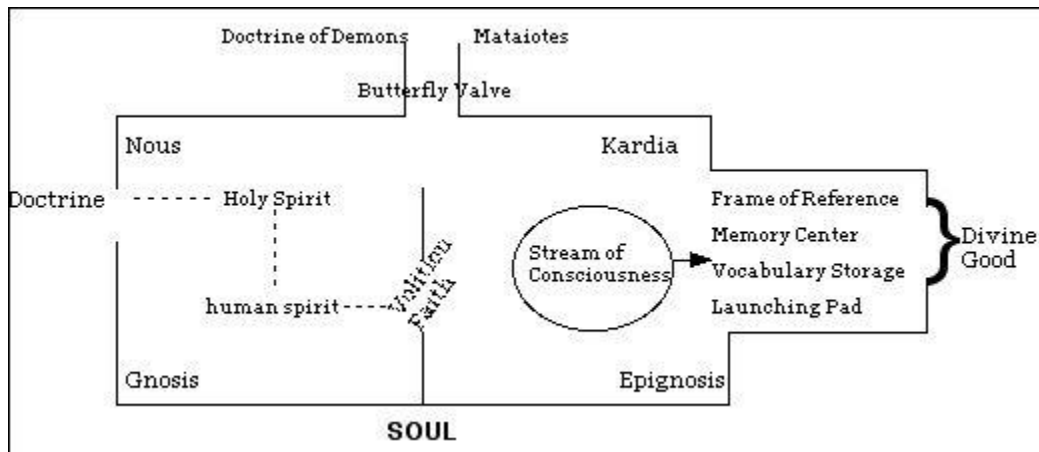
3. While we are moving to spiritual maturity Christ "fully" indwells us.



3.1 We are urged to examine ourselves to ensure that we are in fact growing spiritually.

Expanded Translation:

2Co 13:5 "You must continuously test yourselves to ensure that you are growing spiritually; you must as an on-going process assay your souls to determine the quality of your spiritual life. Christ will not be at home in your soul unless you are growing from EPIGNOSIS doctrine in your right lobe. When you are negative, Christ is not at home in the confines of the real but invisible you.



4. The purpose of the indwelling of Christ is to provide special fellowship with all the benefits of a bride protected and sustained by Jesus, the Groom.

4.1 Jesus makes love to His bride by offering doctrine for her response. Like a good right-man He is always offering even when rejected.

4.2 The Lord of our life though often the recipient of unrequited love is always there knocking; He is never willing to give up. Paul captures that concept in Eph 3:14-18.

Expanded Translation:

Eph 3:14 For this reason I in humility come face to face with the Father and pray for you  
 Eph 3:15 because it was the Father Himself Who gave us our family Name -Family of God, for both those in Heaven and those left on earth; this phenomena was made possible by the efficacious sacrifice of His Son.

Eph 3:16 I pray that out from Christ's vast and limitless assets He may be able to demonstrate our Royalty by His very own inherent power through and by means of His very own Spirit Who resides in each of you;

Eph 3:17 in order that as His purpose Christ may be at home in the sphere of your right lobes because you are positive to the Word; having established a foundation in your soul because of His grace provision uniquely designed for our individual benefit.

Eph 3:18 In order that you may have the inherent power, together with all your fellow family members, to grasp the meaning of the whole realm of doctrine.

5. As Church Age believers the Indwelling of Christ is unique to us. The Incarnate Christ so prophesied in Joh 14:18-21.

NIV

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans without comfort; I will sometime in the future come to you.

Joh 14:19 Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I shall live, and you also shall live.

Joh 14:20 Now after I leave it is then that you will fully realize from the Word as taught you by The Comforter that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.

5.1 Notice how important this uniqueness is as part of the mystery doctrines of the Church Age.

NIV

Col 1:27 To them (*Church Age believers*) God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

Col 1:28 We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

Col 1:29 To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.

6. When Christ is in us we are dead to the control of the old sin nature and this is all part of the desired maturation process. Notice Rom 12:1 and 2 where the two power options are defined.

Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will.

7. This concept is amplified in Rom 8:10 where the domination of the old sin nature is said to be abrogated by DIKAIOSUNE - which is the process of righteousness. The process of righteousness is the consistent use of the two power options and when this occurs Christ is at home in your heart and "supping" with you.

Rom 8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness--*DIKAIOSUNE*.

Rom 8:11 And if (*since*) the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

8. Christ, like the Scriptural husband, is always willing to fellowship with the believer but He will never violate the believer's volition - you "gotta" open the door.

Rev 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he will feast with me.

9. Summary:

9.1 Christ, Who indwells all believers, will fellowship with us only when we are "hot" for doctrine.

NIV

Eph 3:14 For this reason I kneel before the Father,

Eph 3:15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

Eph 3:18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

Eph 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

9.2 Jesus does not fellowship with the carnal believer.

NIV

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are growing in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?

2Co 13:6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

9.3 You can't build divine good on anything or anyone except Christ, and if He is not at home in your heart your attempts at producing divine good will prove futile, i.e., when you don't name your sins to God and consistently take in the Word, Christ steps outside and knocks with discipline.

9.3.1 You can't produce divine good unless Christ is at home in your heart, and I repeat, He is not at home in your heart when you refuse to use the two power options. You may produce all manner of human good but when the indwelling of Christ is not appreciated you will never produce divine good.

