

## The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

### My Identity in Christ and Christ in Me

Galatians 2:20

1. **A Past Work:** “I have been crucified with Christ...”

The identification with Jesus Christ and His death on the cross is what defines the Christian life. In this way, the Christian confesses the goodness and truth of God’s holy standard (Lev. 11:44; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pt. 1:15-16), one’s own absolute inability to fulfill God’s requirements (Gen. 6:5; 8:21), God’s righteousness in judgment against transgressors (Dt. 24:16; Ezk. 18:4; Rom. 3:23), and submits to God’s own Self-provided way of salvation (Lk. 18:13-14; Jn. 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21; cf. Gen. 22:8).

2. **A Present Walk:** “...Christ lives in me...”

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is one of the cataclysmic activities that occurs when a person is born again (cf. Jn. 15:26; 16:7; Rom. 8:9). He actively teaches the believer to understand what is true (Jn. 16:13; cf. Jn. 17:17), encourages the believer in righteousness (cf. Gal. 5:16-18), empowers the believer in service (1 Cor. 12:4ff), and comforts the believer with an affirmation of being a child of God (Rom. 8:16).

3. **A Purposeful Direction:** “...I live by faith in the Son of God...”

The life of the Christian is not one of slavish subjection to onerous laws and commands which must be maintained in order to appease God, but is a joyful striving to obey the commands of a God who has accepted me (Hab. 2:4; cf. 1 Jn. 2:1). Since God has already given His Son for our salvation, we can live confident that He will withhold nothing from us that is for our good (cf. Rom. 8:28-32).

4. **A Personal Connection:** “...who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Paul again looks back at the substitutionary death of Christ, but he does so in a personalized way (i.e. “for me”). The Christian desires to obey the commands of because of the great love with which He love us (cf. 1 Jn. 4:7-11; 5:1-3).