

DOCTRINE OF THE INDWELLING CHRIST

1. Definition and description:

- a. **God the Holy Spirit** (the third person of the Trinity) indwells every believer for functional and operational purposes (Romans 8:9; John. 7:39; 14:17), while **the Lord Jesus Christ** (the second person of the Trinity) indwells every believer for the purpose of fellowship (Rev. 3:20) and for encouragement, the “hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). **NOTE:** The indwelling of **God the Father** is found only in Eph. 4:6.
- b. Hence, **the Holy Spirit’s indwelling is permanent** (John 14:16, 17; Rom. 8:8, 9, 11) **and functional**, providing for these:
 - (1) **Spiritual enabling** through the “filling of the Holy Spirit” (Eph. 3:16; 5:18; 1 Cor. 2:10-16) to understand Bible doctrine, to facilitate prayer, and to live the Christian life.
 - (2) **Sealing the believer** until the resurrection of the body, “the day of redemption.” (Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30)
 - (3) **Exercising** of the believer’s **spiritual gift**. (1 Cor. 12:4)
- c. The **indwelling of Jesus Christ is temporary** and for the purpose of these:
 - (1) **Fellowshipping** with the believer filled with the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:10; Eph. 3:16, 17; 1 John 1:3; Rev. 3:20)
 - (2) **Encouraging** those believers positive toward Bible doctrine to advance to spiritual maturity. (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:28; 3:9-11)
 - (3) Giving the believer **confidence and anticipation** of the eternal “glory” to come. (Col. 1:27)

2. The prophecy of the indwelling of Jesus Christ:

- a. The church age is the dispensation of the royal family of God. Therefore, it has certain unique features which include the following:
 - (1) The baptism, indwelling, and filling of every believer by God the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 11:13; Rom. 8:9; Acts 2:4)
 - (2) The indwelling of every believer by the Lord Jesus Christ through faith. (John 7:39; 14:18-21; 17:23, 26)
- b. This prophecy anticipates the interruption of the age of Israel for the calling out of the royal family of God, “the church.” (1 Pet. 2:9; John 14:19-23)

3. The carnal believer loses the indwelling of Christ temporarily until confession of sins are made. (2 Cor. 13:5; Rev. 3:19, 20; 1 John 1:9; 1 Cor. 11:28-32)

4. The “riches of the glory of this mystery,” church age doctrine, is defined as “Christ in you,” the indwelling of Christ, giving “hope,” confidence and encouragement, with reference to “the glory,” spiritual maturity and eternal blessings and rewards. (Col. 1:27)