

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)