

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Before & After Easter

Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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What keeps us from embracing this with confidence?

- Considering it through the lens of who we are...
 - Instead of the lens of **Who He IS!**
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Genesis 3 (Before & after Easter)

- When they sinned, they became self-centered, instead of God-centered
 - They realized they were naked, and were afraid
 - They saw God through their eyes, instead of...
 - Seeing themselves through God's eyes
 - God made coverings from animal skins (death) for them
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"Witnesses" = Martyr, Having died in His name

- **Romans 6:8**, Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him
 - **I Cor. 15:31**, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
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Is being His witnesses more about **Him in us**, or **us in Him**?

John 15:1-6 (Vs. 6), If anyone **does not abide in Me**, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and

they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

He is complete & perfect! We are partial.

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Ephesians 1 & 2

- 1:1, Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful **in Christ Jesus**
- 1:3, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**
- 1:4, just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world
- 1:6, by which He made us accepted **in the Beloved**.
- 1:7, **In Him** we have redemption through His blood
- 1:9, according to His good pleasure which He purposed **in Himself**
- 1:10, He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—**in Him**.
- 1:11, **In Him** also we have obtained an inheritance
- 1:12, that we who first trusted **in Christ** should be to the praise of His glory
- 1:13, **In Him** you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth
- 2:6, and made us sit together in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**
- 2:7, the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us **in Christ Jesus**

- 2:10, For we are His workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** for good works
- 2:13, **in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ
- 2:15, so as to create **in Himself** one new man from the two
- 2:21, **in whom** the whole building, being fitted together

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 In Ephesians, "**In Christ**" or the equivalent appears **35 times**

"In Christ" – when we are consumed **in who He is...**

- Disappearing into Him

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- I Corinthians 12:12-27**
- Eyes, ears, hands, nose, feet & organs...
 - Is the body alive **in the parts**?
 - Or, are the parts alive **in the body**?
 - **Whose body?**

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 Christ Jesus died – to cover us **in His Body**

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Romans 6:8, Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him

I Corinthians 15:31, I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

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Romans 13:14, But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh

Galatians 3:27, For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**.

- "Put on" = To "clothe", to "sink into a garment", to "rest in"
- To "give self wholly to"

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Colossians 3:9 says we must first "Put off the old man with his deeds"

How?

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I John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Psalm 51:1-4,
 Have mercy upon me, O God,
 According to Your lovingkindness;
 According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
 Blot out my transgressions.
 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 And cleanse me from my sin.
 For I acknowledge my transgressions,
 And my sin is always before me.
 Against You, You only, have I sinned,
 And done this evil in Your sight—
 That You may be found just when You speak,
 And blameless when You judge.