

WHERE CHRISTIANS MEET
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In Galatians 2:20 Paul said, "*Christ lives in me.*" I wonder if we fully understand the impact of this statement? Do we understand what Paul is talking about? Do we know what it means for Christ to live in someone?

Paul explains in the context that before Christ could live in him there were some things that had to happen. He first said, "*I have been crucified with Christ.*" Crucifixion was a means of death. Paul had to die to some things before Christ could live in him. He explained further, "*I no longer live.*"

Of course we understand that Paul is not talking about physical life when he said, "*I no longer live.*" What he is saying is that Christ is now in control of his life. Paul no longer lived his life to please himself. He no longer focused on self, he had died to that way of life.

If we are a Christian, we should be saying the same thing. If Christ is to live in us there are things we must put to death. Bad actions, unhealthy attitudes and improper thoughts must be "put to death." It is probably significant that Paul referred to this death as a "crucifixion." Death by crucifixion was not only a very cruel form of punishment, it was very painful. It may be painful to us to die to certain things and this is Paul's point. It is not easy to give up habits, to change our thinking and to adjust our attitudes. Yet, this is essential to Christ living in us.

There is another consideration. We live in houses. Often our house is a representation of who and what we are. For some a house is a status symbol. People usually personalize their houses. A favorite color, a choice of decor and accessories, all identify the occupants of a house. Our houses are often a source of identification of who we really are.

What kind of "house" are we providing for Christ to live in? Do people really see Christ in us? Can those around us look at us and say, "I can see Christ living in that person?" In reality, Christ is not going to live in those who do not represent Him accurately. If we are unkind, if we quickly lose our temper, if we are impatient with those who do not treat us fairly, can people really see Christ in us?

This passage also demonstrates what is required in order for Christ to live in us. Paul said he "*died to sin that he might live for God*" (Galatians 2:18). This is what we must do. This does not mean that we will never sin after we become a Christian. What it means is we no longer live to sin. We are no longer controlled by sin. We are now controlled by Christ. We have "put to death" that former life of sin and are now living to please God.

Paul said, "*The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God.*" This is how we should be living. We no longer put our faith in our self. We no longer live for the pleasures of this life. We have put all of those things to death by crucifixion and are now the dwelling place of Jesus. May everyone of us be able to say "**CHRIST LIVES IN ME.**"