

The Nature of the Exchange

by John Woodward

1. Contrasting Views on the Exchanged Life

Positional identification with Christ (Average evangelical view)

- *Dichotomous model of man (no distinct human spirit)
- *Progressive model of sanctification
- *No experiential “Cross” in Romans 6:6 advocated as a breakthrough
- *Doctrine to be believed

Positional *and* Spiritual Identification with Christ (GFI and AELM)

- *Spiritual, legal/positional and (potentially) experiential identification
- *Trichotomous model of man (a human spirit distinct from the soul).
- *The old man in Adam actually died with Christ (Rom. 6:6) and the new man is raised and ascended with Him
- *The new man is *already* sanctified--the new nature; the soul is *progressively* sanctified by faith and cooperation with the Holy Spirit.
- *Identification should be appropriated for a higher level of experiential sanctification and freedom

Total Identification with Christ (Norman Grubb) 1

- *Spiritual, legal/positional and (potentially) experiential identification
- *Trichotomous model of man (a human spirit distinct from the soul).
- *The old man in Adam actually died with Christ (Rom. 6:6) and the new person is raised and ascended with Him
- *Those in Adam are spiritually joined to Satan
- *There is no independent self
- *You are Christ in (your name) form
- *Appropriation is essentially a faith issue of realizing Christ *in you as you*.

2. The Timing of the Exchange

Past: What happened when you were taken out of Adam and grafted into Christ.

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” (1 Cor. 1:29)

Future (potentially): Most believers have been “sidetracked in the wilderness.” They need to “cross the Jordan” by appropriating the fuller work of the Cross by surrender and identification. (Gal. 3:1-3; Rom. 6:10,11)

Present: Those who have entered into identification personally need to continue in a “not I, but Christ” attitude daily. The Galatians 2:20 testimony is not only an experience to gain; it is a relationship to maintain.” (2 Cor. 4:10,11)

3. Appropriation of the Exchange: Knowing Christ as Life

A. *Be convicted of your flesh*

When we were saved, God convicted us of our sins and revealed Christ’s death *for* us. For abundant living, the Holy Spirit convicts us of “self” with its unique version of the flesh. The remedy is a discovery of our death *with* Christ. (Phil. 3:3-10; Gal. 5:19-21) (See GFI Workshop notebook: *How One’s Flesh has been Formed*)

B. *Be broken of self-will, self-sufficiency, and pride.*

Full surrender is a prerequisite to exchanging our life for Christ’s life (Rom. 12:1,2). This leads to giving up on our ability to live the Christian life in any other way than radical dependence on Christ within. (Rom. 7:24,25; John 12:24; 2 Cor. 12:9,10)

C. *Learn the truths of identification with Christ.*

We are not separate from Christ; we have been united with Him in spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). He is the Vine, we are branches (John 15:1-8). The old man was crucified and buried with Christ. The new man has been raised with Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places! (Rom. 6:6-12; Eph. 2:4-7; Col. 3:1-4,9,10).

D. *Be illumined by the Holy Spirit as to the personal reality and significance of identification with Christ.*

The Holy Spirit is credited with convincing us that Jesus Christ is Lord (1 Cor. 12:3). He is also the One who illumines us to the personal reality of identification--dropping this truth from head to heart, from knowledge to experience. (John 16:12-14; 1 Cor. 2:11-13)

E. *Appropriate Christ as Life by faith.*

Just as we were saved from hell by grace through faith, we can be *saved from self* by grace through faith. Abundant Life requires an appropriation by faith of Christ as your Lord and Life. The “Selfer’s Prayer” is a sample of the kind of surrender and faith that welcomes Christ to be your source of living. This faith is not necessarily confirmed by feeling of supernatural sensations; faith rests in the facts and promises of God. (Rom. 5:10; 6:10,11)

The initial appropriation may be in a crisis event or a more gradual process. However, the believer’s focus is not on the experience, but on the person of Christ as our Life. (Col. 1:27; 1 John 5:4)

Note: Some believers are living out of this Abiding Life intuitively. The Holy Spirit may do this deeper application of the Cross at salvation or total surrender without the believer's having doctrinal comprehension of this. (See "Paths to the Cross" in the GFI Conference notebook.)

Paul's testimony of **exchange** can be yours: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

Footnotes

See:

Charles Solomon, *Christ-Centered Counseling* (pp. 83-85)

_____. *Handbook to Happiness and You: A Spiritual Clinic* (pp.64-71).

Hannah W. Smith, *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, ch. 4 "How to Enter In"

An Unknown Christian, *How to Live the Victorious Life*, ch.6 "How to Enter In"

David C. Needham, *Alive for the First Time (Birthright I/2nd edition)*, chs.8,9

Examples of Total Identification view:

"...the mystery of the Gospel...is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church at Pentecost means that Christ has joined Himself to us as one spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). Thus we see that Christ has reproduced Himself in our flesh, and we Christians are really Christ living as us (Gal. 2:20)...

"Belief in an independent human nature is Satan's lie and the root of sin. Non-Christians are really Satan-indwelt, expressing his lusts (John 8:44), just as we have come to learn that Christians are Christ-indwelt, expressing His righteousness (2 Cor. 6:16). Humans have no moral nature of their own, meaning that we are simply expressions of the indwelling deity nature, either of Christ or Satan (the fallen created being who is the spirit of error). Sin in a Christian is a result of believing again Satan's lie that there is a human nature which can do good or evil." - www.zerubbabel.org/

"There is No You" [no independent self] Walter Louks, *Life in the Son* vol 41, #294, p. 24
www.christ-life.org/ (Warren Litzman/ Christ-Life Fellowship)

Critique of this view: "No Independent Self: An Attempt at Clarification," by James Fowler
<http://www.christinyou.net/pages/noindependentself.html>

For substantiation on the distinct human spirit and how this clarifies "positional and spiritual identification," see *Exploring the Treasure of Your New Human Spirit* (John Best), and *Man as Spirit, Soul, and Body: A Study of Biblical Psychology* (John Woodward).

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