

**THE ALL-INCLUSIVE, EXTENSIVE CHRIST
REPLACING CULTURE FOR THE ONE NEW MAN, Week 2**

KEY STATEMENTS

The Christ who replaces our culture with Himself for the one new man is the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, the preeminent One, the centrality and universality of God's economy.

When we have the vision of the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, experience Him as our life and the constituent of our entire being, and live Him instead of our culture, the one new man will appear among us in a practical way, and we will realize the life of the new man.

We need to be renewed day by day with the fresh supply of the resurrection life to replace our culture and to become the one new man in reality by becoming as new as the New Jerusalem.

We need to live the life of the one new man instead of our culture by learning Christ as the reality is in Jesus;
the way the Lord Jesus lived on earth
is the way the one new man should live today.

Living the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ instead of Our Culture

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:11, 16-17a; Phil. 1:20-21a; Col. 1:15, 18, 27; 3:4, 10-11

- Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Ephesians 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
Ephesians 3:17 That **Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith**, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be **magnified in my body**, whether through life or through death.
Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
- Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the **Firstborn of all creation**,
Colossians 1:18 And He is the **Head of the Body**, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the **first place in all things**;
Colossians 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory,
- Colossians 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be **manifested with Him in glory**.
Colossians 3:10 And have put on the **new man**, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
Colossians 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but **Christ is all and in all**.

... we need to **live Christ for His magnification** by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. We need to be saved from the failure of not living Christ and from the defeat of not **magnifying Christ**. The Spirit has a rich provision to **supply us in full to live Christ for His magnification**. The bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ contains all that the processed and consummated Triune God—embodied in the all-inclusive Christ who is realized as the all-inclusive Spirit—is, has, has accomplished, obtained, attained, and will do. This bountiful supply of the Spirit is the unsearchable riches of Christ to meet in time the need of the seekers of Christ. When we truly seek after Christ, we will receive this bountiful supply. It is by such a bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ that the seekers of Christ, as His overcomers in the consummation of this age, live Him for His magnification in the New Testament economy of God for the producing and building up of the organic Body of Christ as the counterpart of the consummated Triune God, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem as His eternal enlargement and expression for eternity. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament (Msgs. 346-366), chapter 346, section 2*)

Day 1

I. The central thought of the Bible is that God desires us to live Christ for the church as the **Body of Christ, the one new man—Phil. 1:21a; Eph. 2:15-16:**

- A. God's intention is that we become **saturated, permeated, filled, and clothed** with Christ so that we may **live Christ**—3:17a; Gal. 2:20; 3:27; 4:19.
- B. The Christian life is the life in which the believers of Christ live Christ and **magnify Him**—Phil. 1:20-21a.
- C. To live Christ is to live a person, **Christ Himself**—Col. 1:27; Rom. 8:10:
 - 1. If we would live Christ, we must take Him as our person and **be one person with Him**; He and we must be one in a practical way—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - 2. If we have light concerning how Christ is replaced in our daily living, we will confess to the Lord that instead of living Him we live many other things, that **we live more by culture than by Christ**—1 John 1:7.
- D. The reason we do not live Christ is that **we are not constituted with Christ**; what we are constituted with is what we live—Col. 3:4, 10-11; Eph. 3:17a.

Day 2

II. Concerning the matter of the all-inclusive, extensive Christ versus culture, we need to see that according to the full revelation in the Bible, God's intention is to **work Himself in Christ into His chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19:**

- A. God's central work, His unique work, in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations is to **work Himself in Christ into His chosen people**, making Himself one with them—Eph. 3:17a; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. God's intention is to **thoroughly work Himself in Christ into us**, making Himself our inward elements—Eph. 3:11, 16-19.
- C. For the fulfillment of God's eternal economy, God needs to build Himself in Christ into our being, building Himself in Christ into us as our life, our nature, and our constitution to **make us God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead**—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Rom. 1:3-4; Eph. 3:17a; John 14:23; Col. 3:10-11:
 - 1. We need God to **build Himself in Christ into our intrinsic constitution** so that our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ—Eph. 3:17a.
 - 2. Christ builds the church by **coming into our spirit** and **spreading** Himself from our spirit into our mind, emotion, and will to occupy our entire soul—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:17a.

By the Lord's mercy and grace, we in the Lord's recovery do not care for our culture. Some may think that they are free from culture. But without exception every one of us has his personal and individual culture, a **self-made and self-imposed culture**. Furthermore, those who have been in the church life for a number of years may have a local church culture. After they came into the recovery and began to meet with the saints in the church, some spontaneously began to conform to the church life. Some refrained from using makeup or going to movies, not because they were living Christ, but because they were conforming to the church life. Some may cut their hair in a certain way for the same reason. Others may testify that they do certain things because they love Christ and the church. However, it is one thing to love Christ and another thing to live Christ. It is possible to cut your hair because you love Christ without living Christ in this matter. Probably very few saints in the Lord's recovery attend movies. Why is it that they do not go to movies? Is it because they love Christ and the church, or is it because they live Christ? We should be able to say, "The reason I do not go to movies is that **I live Christ**. Because Christ does not do this, I do not do it either. Christ is my life within and my living without. I live by Christ, not by conforming to the church life." We all should be able to declare that we do not have any regulation or conformity—**we only have Christ**. We should contact Him unceasingly and live in oneness with Him. He lives in us, and we live in Him. In this way we and Christ are one. We do certain things or refrain from doing certain things not merely because we love the Lord, but because **we are living Him**. (*Life-Study of Colossians, chapter 41, section 3*)

Day 3

III. In saying that Christ is versus culture, we are not saying that we should **drop our culture and live without any culture whatsoever—Col. 3:10-11:**

- A. Those who do not have Christ certainly need to live according to culture, for culture preserves, regulates, and improves people.
- B. **Prior** to receiving the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, everyone needs culture.
- C. After we have received Christ, we should **not allow culture to limit Christ or to frustrate us from experiencing and enjoying Christ**; rather, we should begin to learn to live according to Christ, not according to culture—2:6-7.
- D. As children are growing up, they need culture and the law—Gal. 3:23-28:
 - 1. Before children receive Christ, they must be **trained** according to culture and under the law—vv. 23-24.
 - 2. After they have received Christ, gradually we can help them **turn** from culture to Christ—John 1:12-13; 6:57.

Day 4

IV. Since we have received Christ, we should **not allow culture to become a substitute for Him—Col. 2:6; 3:10-11:**

- A. Every kind of culture is versus Christ, and **Christ is versus every kind of culture**—v. 11:
 - 1. Any culture, no matter what kind of culture it is, is versus Christ.
 - 2. Apart from Christ, everything we have and every human product and development are part of culture.
- B. The factor that limits the expansion of the enjoyment of Christ is **culture**; spontaneously, the culture within us keeps us from the real experience of Christ—Phil. 3:3-9.

- C. Because our culture hinders us from experiencing Christ, enjoying Christ, and living Christ, we are heavily burdened by the Lord that all the saints in the Lord's recovery may [learn in a practical way to take Christ as their life and person to replace their culture](#)—Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:4.
- D. In Christ we have the liberty to set aside our culture in order to [enlarge our capacity to enjoy the Lord](#); all the room within us must be given over to Christ.
- E. If our entire inward capacity is [made available](#) to Christ, spontaneously the culture within us will be [replaced](#) by the Christ who dwells in us—1:27; 3:11.

We like to say that we live Christ, but many times we dare not say this because we have some realization that we do not live Christ all the time. The reason we do not live Christ is that [we are void of Christ's constitution](#). What we are constituted with is what we live. Some saints told me, "To live Christ is wonderful, but I forget to live Him all the time. When I lost my temper, I remembered that I should have lived Christ, and by then it was too late!" The reason you forget to live Christ is because Christ has never been constituted into you that much. To live Christ does not need you to remember that you have to live Christ. If He has been [so much constituted into you](#), you cannot forget to live Him. Our bad temper is "quicker than electricity." If we do not have the constitution of Christ for us to remember that we need to live Christ, it is impossible to live Him. [How much we live Christ depends upon how much Christ has been constituted into our being](#). According to our fellowship thus far, we can see that to say the New Jerusalem is a physical city prepared by God is absolutely absurd. There is no way to interpret the consummation of the Bible in this way. Because this city is new, it has been wrought with God and has God as its contents. (*God's New Testament Economy, chapter 27, section 2*)

Day 5

V. It is crucial that we see a [vision of the all-inclusiveness and extensiveness of Christ](#); we should not endeavor to drop our culture without such a vision of Christ—Acts 26:19; Eph. 1:17-23:

- A. The Christ who indwells us is not a small, limited Christ; He is the One who is the [image of the invisible God](#), the [embodiment of the fullness of God](#), and the [focal point of God's economy](#)—Col. 1:15, 18; 2:2, 9-10:
 - 1. Such a Christ now dwells in us and is [waiting for the opportunity](#) to spread Himself throughout our being—1:27.
 - 2. This Christ should be [everything in our daily living](#), and we should live Him, not giving any ground in our living to culture—Phil. 1:21a; Col. 3:11.
- B. As soon as we see the vision of the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, we should begin to [set aside our cultural background](#) and not allow it to replace Christ or restrict Him—Acts 9:4-5; 26:19; Phil. 3:7-10:
 - 1. We should not give any ground in our living to culture.
 - 2. Instead, all the [room within us should be given over to the all-inclusive, extensive Christ who dwells in us](#)—Col. 1:27.

Day 6

- C. If we see such a **vision** of the indwelling, all-inclusive, extensive Christ, [we will spontaneously drop our culture](#)—3:10-11:
 - 1. Formerly, Christ was replaced by culture, but once we have seen this vision, the culture within us will be replaced by Christ—v. 11.
 - 2. Instead of trying to drop our culture, [we should simply live Christ](#), and Christ will replace our culture with Himself—Phil. 1:21a.
- D. When we **live Christ**, we are [spontaneously delivered from culture](#), and [automatically the Christ by whom we live replaces our culture](#); this is the revelation in the book of Colossians—1:15, 18, 27; 2:2, 9-10; 3:4, 10-11.

Christ descended from the heavens to the earth and then, in the interval between His death and resurrection, He descended into Hades. In resurrection He ascended from Hades to earth and then, in His ascension, from the earth to the heavens. As a result of such a universal traveling, Christ fills all things. Thus, He is the **extensive One**. As such an extensive One, He is our life, and we may live Him. In the book of Colossians Paul presents such an extensive Christ in order to impress us with the fact that this Christ should replace our culture. Do not try to drop your culture. All your efforts to do so will be in vain. [Simply live Christ](#), and [Christ will replace your culture with Himself](#).

We should not treasure any type of ism, for all isms have to do with culture. Instead of living according to an ism, [we should live Christ](#), a living Person, who is the portion of the saints, the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of both the old creation and the new creation, the One in whom and unto whom all things were created, and the One who is our life in the new man. [Such an extensive Christ is the replacement for our culture](#).

In the book of Colossians, Paul's concern is not mainly with sin, the world, or even with the self. His concern is with **culture**, which becomes the factor that replaces God to give meaning and purpose to life. Now that Christ has reconciled us to Himself, we should live Him and allow Him to replace every aspect of our culture. Therefore, in Colossians we see the revelation of the extensive Christ. [We need to take this Christ as the meaning, purpose, and goal of our life; we need to live by Him](#). (*Life-Study of Colossians, chapter 45, section 3*)