

Theme: We are not left to ourselves to live out the life of obedience and faith. We can truly have the mind of Christ and the power of Christ because by faith we are bound up in *union with Christ* – we in Him and He in us.

Background: We are truly blessed to be *in Christ*. In Him our salvation was secured in eternity past and will be fully enjoyed in eternal life.

Introduction: Who really has “super powers”?

I. Christ in You!

A. Mystery Revealed (Colossians 1:27; John 15:4; Galatians 2:20)

1. Known for ages
2. More glorious than anticipated! (Colossians 1:27)
 - To include the gentile nations
3. True unity (Colossians 1:27; Galatians 2:20)
 - Not things “outside” of Jesus – but Jesus himself!
 - Not just living in the flesh – but living in the spirit
4. Dead to sin
 - In that union we truly died to sin.
 - Romans 6:3ff (1 Corinthians 10:1-2; 12:13)
 - Baptized into his death?
3. Mystery?
 - a. A mystery *revealed* (1Corinthians 2:9,10)
 - b. A mysterious *confidence*

B. Mystery Remains

- That which is finite cannot fully embrace the infinite

1. God in us?
 - “I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30)
 - a. God the Father - in us (John 14:23; John 17:20-23)
 - b. God the Holy Spirit – in us (John 14:15-17)
2. The mystery of faith!!
 - Faith is the means by which we are made partakers of Christ.
 - a. The place of *faith* in Ephesians 1 & 2
 - From being *in Christ* to the gift of faith
 - b. The place of *faith* in Colossians 1
 - From faith to the mystery of the Gospel, “Christ in you, the hope of glory”

II. A New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)

- A. The Old has gone – the New has come. (Romans 6:10ff)
 - Christ did not come to *improve* the old self. He came to kill it!

- B. With the “Mind of Christ”
 - 1. A true knowledge of God
 - 2. To know the *will* of God
 - 3. To have Christ’s *desires* after God

- C. To be holy - because of who you are!
 - Union with Christ is the Heart of the Gospel!

 - 1. United I stand!
 - Apart from Christ I cannot stand
 - In Christ we become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3,4)
That nature is HOLY! (1 Peter 1:14-16)
 - Were chosen “to be holy and blameless in His sight!” (Ephesians 1:4)

 - 2. Becoming *Who You Are (In Christ)*
 - A New Creation – on the way to being fully remade!
 - Galatians 2:20; Romans 6

Conclusion:

Holiness is about *Living in Jesus*. It’s not about making him love you more. It is not about obeying His laws/rules *so* that you can earn his favor, and earn your salvation. It is not a chore!! Not the trial we must bear to reach heaven.

It is about enjoying and experiencing His love which he has “poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit *who has been given to us*” (Romans 5:5) – through our union with Christ!