



THE EXCHANGED LIFE PRINCIPLE
:: DYING TO LIVE ::

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Galatians 2:20
May 15, 2022

One of the greatest discoveries of my Christian life was when I discovered that I must die in order to live. Likewise, before a church can grow, it must be buried. This verse is all about living by dying and all about the crucifixion, yet it leads to resurrection. This verse is all about our life in the flesh, yet it leads to a life of faith. This verse is all about a love that we would never know unless Jesus Christ gave Himself for us.

Bill Stafford:

"The Christian life is nothing less than the indwelling Christ made alive inside us."

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) 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.

A fact to process:

Manley Beasley went to heaven from kidney failure at the age of 59, but before he died, he gave birth to the exchanged life message. It's the belief that we died with Christ when He died on the cross. It is no longer I who live, but the Christ who lives within me. Going back under the law would be to cancel one's union with Christ's sacrifice on the cross and, therefore, go back under sin.

Manley Beasley:

"The problem is that too many of us are trying to live the Christian life. That's not a contradiction, because the Christian life is, by definition, the life of Christ. And He's the only person who has ever lived the Christian life successfully. So, for us to live the Christian life, Jesus must live His life in and through us while we simply get out of the way."

The Exchanged Life Begins With:

I. The Context of the Verse

Galatians 2:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

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Oswald Chambers:

"No one is ever united with Jesus Christ until he is willing to relinquish not sin only, but his whole way of looking at things. To be born from above of the Spirit of God means that we must let go before we lay hold, and in the first stages it is the relinquishing of all pretense."

Stephen Olford:

"Being crucified with Christ means that I sign over a death warrant of my life. The passion of Christianity is that I deliberately sign away my own rights and become a bond slave of Jesus Christ. Until I do that, I can never become a saint."

II. The Content of the Verse

Galatians 2:16 (NKJV) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

III. The Challenge of the Verse

A. It is the gospel of the extinguished life

Galatians 2:20a I am crucified with Christ...

Galatians 1:4 (NKJV) who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

B. It is the gospel of the relinquished life

Galatians 2:20b (NKJV) Nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ who lives within me...

Bill Stafford:

"It is the job of every Christian to get up every morning and report for duty DOA."

C. It is the gospel of the distinguished life

Galatians 2:20c (NKJV)...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

Two aspects of the distinguished life are implied:

1. A Dependent Life

Romans 14:23b ...whatever is not of faith is sin.

2. A Devoted Life

Galatians 2:20 ...He gave himself for us.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.