

Identity Factor

.....and this is the “secret”,
Christ is in you....

Christ in you, the
Hope
of Glory.

(The Apostle Paul Colossians 1:27)

You are complete in Him...

(The Apostle Paul Colossians 2:10)



We are all searching for completeness, glory and hope.

There are enormous amounts of self-help advice out there in the world today and they are making money because everyone is trying to make themselves better.

Magazines and health periodicals sell by the millions each month. They all tell us we need the advice they give us so we can learn how to be resilient, beautiful, have more money, have a better body, live longer, and be successful. They are offering reasons to change but offer no real answers.

We all feel that we are not complete, that something is missing.

Political groups, clubs, support fellowships and even churches are joined and followed with a fervent, religious participation all because people are searching for identity.

God made us like this to search because he wants us to find him.

He wants people to find completeness in him.

Can you say, “I am complete in Christ”? How does it feel? Daring?

We have been told all our lives we must work hard at getting better. Even when people come to church, they often get the impression that the pressure is on them to change and become a perfected person.

One could start to feel, “Everyone else here must be perfect; I guess I had better get my “act” together!”

The apostle Paul wrote to the people of his day who must have been having the same issues, because he says that he worked so hard to let people know this secret truth.

I do this in order that they may be filled with courage and may be drawn together in love, and so have the full wealth of assurance which true understanding brings. In this way they will know God's secret, which is Christ himself.

He is the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge.

(Col. 2:2-4 GNB)

Notice, Paul did not say, the key was to learn some teaching that would enable us to change, but he said the secret was Christ himself. We need Jesus. He contains all we need. He contains all of the nature of God and God is totally complete. And we are in him. This is the miracle of Salvation.

Jesus is in us and we are in Him. He is complete, so we are complete as we remain in him. We find all that we need in him. So Paul goes on and tells us our job. Not to change but to live in union with Christ.

Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving.

(Col. 2:6,7 GNB)

This is the way our faith grows stronger. This is the teaching that should fill our minds and hearts. We will start to see fruit. Especially as we are filled with thanksgiving. When I believe I have received something extremely valuable, I am overwhelmed and thankful.

Pray this with me:

"Thank you, God, you have filled me with all I need. I am complete in you, Jesus."

Paul gives us very specific warnings that give us a clue of what keeps us away from feeling accepted, secure and significant in Christ:

I tell you, then, do not let anyone deceive you with false arguments, no matter how good they seem to be.

See to it, then, that no one enslaves you by means of the worthless deceit of human wisdom, which comes from the teachings handed down by human beings and from the ruling spirits of the universe, and not from Christ.

(Col 2:8 GNB)

He spells it out very clearly. It's enslaving, deceitful and worthless teachings from "man's wisdom" and evil spirits that tell us we must keep searching and try harder, but this is not from Christ.

Next is one of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible. It is powerful because if we will believe it and walk this reality it will bring much power in our lives.

For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body,

and you are complete through your union with Christ...

(Col. 2:10 NLT)

The full content of divine nature lives in Christ, and you are complete in him.

Paul said he worked hard to let them know this wonderful truth that would be a “wealth of assurance.” When we truly understand what Jesus has done for us, we have a wealth, an assurance, a treasure.

This is the secret. This is the “Identity Factor” that is missing.

Christ himself.

He is the key that opens all the hidden treasure of God’s wisdom and knowledge. He is full of Divine nature. God does not lack anything! You have Christ. He is all you need.

David knew this, He said,

“God, you are all I need.”

Ps. 16:5

God is who we need and he has given us Jesus to dwell in us and by his Spirit he abides with us and will be in us at all times and forever.

This is our great hope.

This is our identity factor.

This is our secret.

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