

The Cross and the Comforter

10C's of in a nutshell the Christian view of Life and Living. To briefly summarize the Bible on this must not be complicated, yet it can not be too simple since it takes the 66 books of the Bible to completely explain the will and way and plan of God for the life and living for all humanity. **{also considered as the subject of “The Cross and the Comforter”, since the “cross” summarizes not only what Jesus did for atonement, justification, redemption in His death on the cross for our sins and salvation, but also the cross and the Comforter of the Holy Spirit makes complete the truth about our complete salvation in the One Baptism of Galatians 2:20}**. If we must have a theology then it must be a Bible based theology with preference for the “sound pattern of words” used in the Bible, otherwise we quickly degenerate into a cult or something similar.

CHRIST [1] -- Even as there is no word Christian without Christ, so there is no Christian life and living without the foundation in the virgin birth, sinless life, teachings, miracles, death on the cross, resurrection, ascension to heaven, and the promised return of Christ.

CONVERSION [2] -- There must be a drastic change in the view of life and living, so drastic that Jesus taught that adults must become again like little children under God and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Even as the Apostles in writing Scriptures of the Bible expressed salutations as “bondservants” of God and Christ, even so all those who would become disciples after them, according to Jesus, must be converted.

**“Assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matthew 18:3)**

“COME AND SEE [3] -- Jesus invented pragmatism in the first century, telling his first disciples to “come and see”, actually to live with Him for almost 3 years to learn discipleship from what He taught, what He did, the way He died on the cross, His miracles, His resurrection and Ascension; and so the COME is being extended today as Jesus through the Holy Spirit tells each would be believer with the right attitude of the repentance of conversion and faith of conversion

that God the Father and Himself with come into their heart personally to live with him. How Christ can reveal Himself to individuals today without the world seeing, Jesus explained in John 14:22-24:

“Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, ‘Lord {see here is another servant like little child, alias a disciple, calling Jesus Christ “Lord”} how is it that you will manifest Yourself to us {more pragmatism}, and not to the world {the Contrast with the Christian and the world is always there in the Bible, then and today}? Jesus answered and said to him {even as many of the most awesome teachings of Jesus were delivered to one person in response to a question, but also for the benefit of the other listening disciples and us, so Jesus deals individually through the comforting Holy Spirit with us today}, ‘If any man loves Me, he will keep my word {this is part of the Cross of obedience and discipleship}; and My Father will love him, and We will COME to him and make Our home with him.” (John 14:22-24)

CALL [4] -- The “come and see” is also a personal call to all humanity, anytime and at any place in the world, as “faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God”; and it is the call of hope, the hope a new life and way of living on this earth and eternal life to come.

“...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened {more of the come and see of today}; that you may know {more personal experience} what is the hope of His CALLING, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power {a subtle introduction to the presently available power of the Holy Spirit, our COMFORTER, which is coming up in the list of 10C’s}...” (Ephesians 1:18,19)

CONFESSION [5] -- The way of salvation that starts the Christian way of life and living, continues it, and completes it is the way of believing and confessing salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“But what does it say {the word of God and of faith in the Bible say to the individual}? {And the answer comes back from the word in Deuteronomy 30:14—about as far back into the word as you can get!} ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach) that if you CONFESS with your mouth {somebody has to hear it from you, and that

prime somebody is Christ and the Father} the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead {always back to CHRIST, CHRIST, and more CHRIST!}, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:8,9)

NOTE: Not perhaps you will be saved, or maybe you will be saved, or there is the probability that you will be saved, but as part of the same word of God in the NT, YOU WILL BE SAVED!

CROSS [6] -- It is not all comfort and ease as there is a unique and individual cross for every Christian as part of Christian life and living. True the COMFORTER, the Holy Spirit, comes into your heart to live with you bringing the Father and the Son with Him, and true the Comforter also goes along side you as “the paraclete”, the other Jesus on earth to help you when you do not push Him way to “grieve Him”; and that paradox of CROSS and COMFORTER is as mysterious, except by personal experience, as how the Christian “dies in order to live”, or how the Christian dies to life in order to live to fuller life.

Jesus taught:

“And he who does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:38,39)

And—

“Come to Me {the CALL of the CROSS and COMFORTER}, all you who labor or are heavy laden {the worker has the advantage over the rich as does the individual who recognizes the heavy laden}, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you {the yoke of obedience, the cross, and discipleship} and learn from me {knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and more knowledge leads to godliness, the cross, and beyond to “brotherly kindness and love” (II Peter 1:6.7) , and you can certainly learn personally from the One that is inside your space}, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

And—{as you are crucified personally with Christ, you come to experience and continue to experience the One Baptism of salvation}
“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.” (Galatians 2:20)

COMFORTER [7] – The Holy Spirit, our Comforter who took the place of Jesus on earth, the One inside us with “the divine nature”, and the “paraclete” Who goes along beside us to help us. Again, it is Jesus talking:

1. The Holy Spirit as Comforter and Helper. Until you can get rid of the unfortunate “Holy Ghost” translation of the KJV, probably from Shakespeare who was on the King James translation committee, you will neither gain the respect of the Holy Spirit nor get the full knowledge of the truth of the truthfulness. Ralph Herring in “God Being My Helper” expressed the whole truth about the Spirit as none others in our generation. While we respect their dedication and commitment to Christ and the cross, generally, those same worshippers who confuse speaking in known tongues, as the disciples did on the day of Pentecost in order to communicate with the Jews of the dispersion there for the day of Pentecost, with their outbursts of speaking in unknown tongues which magnify themselves, are the same people who chose “ghost” over Spirit. How confused denominations and churches can get when they substitute “ghost” for Holy Spirit is exemplified by the claim of the LDS that they only receive the Holy Ghost and all others receive the Holy Spirit. {Thank you, LDS.} Those are also famous for their forgetfulness after those moments of unknown tongues, and as they go out to live in “godliness, brotherly kindness, and love”, using such claimed manifestations of the Spirit for proof of salvation like our Roman Catholic friends use the confessional to give them comfort in the midst of habitual sin.

“But when the Comforter comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth Who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26)

2. It is God the Holy Spirit that came to take the place of Jesus on earth, and it is He and He only who “convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment”. We work in vain without His help!

“And when He has come {this, of course happened on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension}, He will convict the world {there it is again the CONTRAST between the Christian and the world} of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...” (John 16:7,8)

3. The Holy Spirit guides, teaches truth, and “glorifies” and makes declarations of truth about Jesus.

“However when He, the Spirit of truth {careful to allow the knowledge of truth and of our Lord Jesus Christ to take the lead over other claimed outbursts of the Spirit}, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority {even as Jesus spoke and taught in the authority of the Father, so does the Holy Spirit}, but whatever He hears, He will speak {oh, if Christians and others could only realize that Jesus first and then the Spirit only spoke what they heard and hear from the Father—“the teachings are not mine, but of the Father Who gave them to Me”}; and He will tell you things to come {careful here to magnify truth by not confusing illumination with revelation which came only through Prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles}. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13,14)

4. The Holy Spirit seals up for salvation, unhampered unless you grieve Him with habitual and unconfused sin to God the Father through Jesus, until the day of complete salvation of redemption, that is the complete buying back of the soul, spirit, and body to likeness in God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:29,30)

CONTRAST [8] – Now, right now while we are in a section of the last teachings of Jesus on earth and from John 16, etc, we should contrast the “world” with Christian life and living, as Jesus Himself did; and further begin some convictions of what the world is and means, among other things in order to keep, like Pastor James said, “ourselves unspotted from the world” (James 1:27) as part of “pure religion and undefiled”.

NOTE: Granted that while up until now, all the words of C’s have been straight from the Bible, the word “world” is found innumerable times in the Bible, and “Contrast with the World” is the real subject here; and next in line of C’s, we will come to **CONFORMITY**, as in “Be not conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”, which is so Bible and

in the sound pattern of words of the Bible that it is Bible! There are so many ways that the Christian way of life and living is commended as a CONTRAST of non-CONFORMITY to the world, so numerous to name except for a few: Paul told the Ephesians that they showed a lack of proper learning of Christ when they lived in a worldly fashion like the “other Gentiles” (Ephesians 4:17-21); and by the way in that same passage illustrated how the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ is so personal, pragmatic, and a matter of COME and See—“..if indeed you have heard Him and been taught by Him {you see Jesus did not come to Ephesus in body form, He will later at the Second Coming, amen!}, as the truth {here the Comforter can help you, for real truth is real comfort} is in Jesus.”

1. “all that will godly (the godliness and difference and contrast is a difference that the world can not endure} in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”.

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you {the world is an it while Jesus is the great Me, by contrast; and “greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world”}.

2. The Christian view of life and living is summarized from the Bible, and in the sound pattern of the words of the Bible as “in the world” but “not of the world”—in the words of the Apostle John, the apostle of love, “Love not the world, neither the things of the world. All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but of the world. The world passes away and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abides forever.” (I John 2:15-17) Jesus continues from John 15:18-25:

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own {you can tell false teachers today like the false prophets of Jeremiah and of the OT because the world loves them and flocks to them and buys their best sellers because of their popularity}. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. {Can’t you see the CONTRAST with the world, because they see and hear Jesus in you, they can not endure, and that intolerance turns to hate. By the way a contrast of the

American Democratic Faith as not the same as Christian faith, is that among other differences, it is a faith of and in the world.}”

“Remember the word that I said to you, the servant is not greater than his Master {again the CROSS and servitude to Jesus and the yoke of Jesus}. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. {The Christian must worry when not persecuted in any way by the world, when the world is so with him that he is considered more a part of the world in which he lives and makes his living.} If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. {Another CONTRAST with the world and the way the world apart from Jesus thinks, they have no real personal knowledge of God the Father if they do not know Jesus!}

3. The CONTRAST of the CHRIST and the world is the contrast of knowing sin and not knowing sin as sin against God the Father.

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me, hates My Father also.”

{The world and many Christians just can not get this connection between the Father and the Son correct, what you do with One you do with the Other, for the Father says in the Word that They are inseparable and “that every knee should bow and every tongue CONFESS that Jesus is Christ {the Messiah} to the glory of God the Father”; and for the glory of the Father. You who think you can worship God apart from our Lord Jesus Christ are just plain fooling yourself even as the most religious people of all time, the Pharisees and other Jews at the time of Jesus, faked themselves out saying, “God is our Father”; and Jesus had to correct them by saying, “You are of your father the devil, and the works of the devil you do.”}

4. The world seeing, hearing, and knowing about Jesus makes them sinners, and now Jesus through the Holy Spirit, the COMFORTER, convicts the world of sin.

“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did {still another CONTRAST between Jesus, all other religions, and all of the world that no other works have ever been seen like those of Jesus, amen!}, they would have no sin {This is another reason for persecution, the world can not endure to have their sins made

known to themselves. The concept is if they don't know it can not hurt them, and once they know, they think, then they are in trouble.}; but now they have seen and also hated Me and My Father.” (John 15:18-24)

CONFORMITY [9] -- “I beseech you therefore, brethren {this is for Christian brothers in Christ}, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice {more of the CROSS, servitude and obedience to God and Christ, the yoke, and then getting into sanctification and godliness}, holy {yes there is some sanctification and godliness}, acceptable to God, {acceptable to God because it is efforts to be like God, who demands “Be you holy as I am holy”}, which is your reasonable service {reasonable because of all Christ has done for us on the CROSS, is doing now to rescue us from a life of habitual sin and with the help of the COMFORTER}.

“And do not be CONFORMED to this world {there is the CONTRAST with the world, against Jesus and God again}, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind {again knowledge and more knowledge in the mind is far more important than any unknown tongue that no one in the congregation can understand, and certainly is not being communicated in any known language to those on TV}, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:1,2)

NOTE: We come back to where we started on CHRIST and “the hope of His CALLING”, also a matter of conformity to Christ by transformation and renewal of mind, and of the great hope and hopes of that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God!

CHALLENGE [10] -- Would be added here, and is the tenth of the 10 C's; but space nor time would permit the same justice to the subject that is already done, and available to you in the book by SunGrist_Bible, and available in paperback on amazon.com and on www.biblecombibleman.com in PDF format, that is FRIENDS OF JESUS, a CHALLENGE sufficient for the Falling Away.