

Life Under Our New Lord And Master

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [NIV] *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.”*

The Greek word translated “body” encompasses all of our life, our physical body, our mind and the human spirit within us.

When we meditate on what Paul is now telling us it will come as a shock.

The fact that we, since becoming a child of God, a Christian, we have the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit is great news.

But “you are not your own” is something very different.

Who is in control?

Before we opened the door of our life to Jesus Christ we were in charge of our lives, this has now changed!

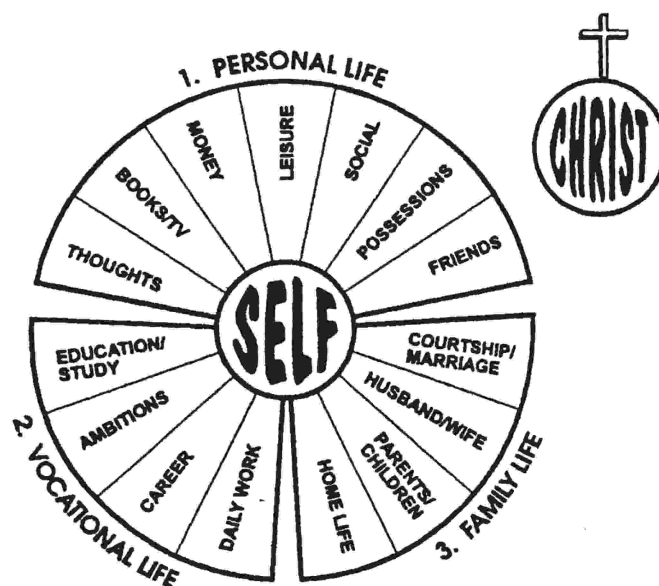
Every person’s life is made up of many different parts.

We were the central organising and controlling centre of our personal life, vocational life and family life.

We may even have gone to church and lived by Christian standards but we were still in control.

We still held the keys to each part of our life.

Jesus was on the outside and all the doors were locked to our Saviour, He had never been allowed to come in and take over control.



The Natural Self-Controlled Life

Our self nature was still central, controlling all we did.

We may have felt that we had our life under control and well ordered.

Didn't our level of success, and our standing in the community prove this?

Maybe our life was in a real mess and badly organised, and we had many problems.

We may have realised we needed some outside help. **But** we were very reluctant to lose any control of our life.

We in both these extreme lifestyles demanded to be central to all that happened.

A change of ownership

When we accept Jesus Christ's sacrifice to free us from the death penalty our sinful, rebellious life had earned us, big changes have to take place.

Revelation 3:17-20 [NIV] *"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so that you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so that you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so that you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. **Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.**"*

We see in this passage of scripture a group of very self-centred people who were blind to their real condition, the way God saw them.

Jesus does **not** force His way into our lives, He only comes in by invitation, our opening the door to Him.



The Self-Controlled Life with Jesus as a Lodger

John 15:14 [NIV] *"You are my friends if you do what I command."*

Jesus wants to fellowship with us.

But Jesus Christ does **not** want to be in our lives as a lodger, only in part of our life.

Jesus Christ enters our life only as a new and rightful owner of our life.

Colossians 1:16 [NIV] *“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things were created by him and for him.**”*

Jesus Christ created us in the first place.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, **“I am the way and the truth and the life.** No-one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Jesus Christ is the life we have in us.

Hebrews 1:3 [NIV] *“**The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.** After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”*

Jesus Christ sustains the life in all He created.

1 Corinthians 6:20 [NIV] *“you were **bought at a price.** Therefore honour God with your body.”*

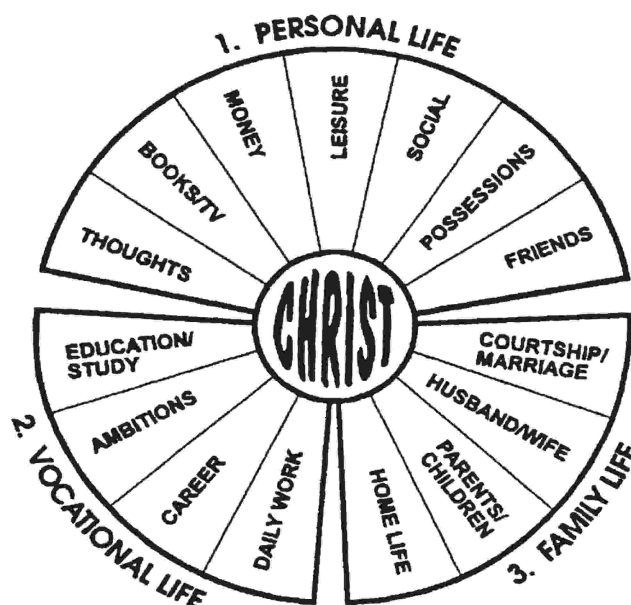
“*Bought at a price*” refers to slaves purchased at an auction.

Jesus Christ’s death freed us from the penalty of death, but also obligates us to becoming His servant, a bond slave.

We cannot treat Jesus Christ as a lodger in the back room of our house.

God now owns the house in which we live

If we are a Christian we have to hand over all the keys to every room in our life and He becomes central to our lives.



The True Christian Life With Jesus In Central Control

Ephesians 3:16-18 [NIV] *“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,”*

The Greek word translated “dwell” really means “to be at home”.

Jesus Christ wants to be in your “living room” **not** a lodger in the back bedroom.

Jesus Christ wants to dwell, settle down, abide and make a permanent home in the centre of our life.

Jesus Christ wants to have freedom to enter into every part of our life.

To be a Christian means submitting to Jesus Christ as Lord of our life and learning to live the way He wants us to live.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

As a result of what God has done for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God’s expression of mercy, the least we can do is offer our whole life back to Him.

Romans 6:2-4 [NIV] *“By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

The new life that is ours through being born again, after dying to sin through accepting Christ’s death as a substitute to our own deserved death.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Jesus Christ now the owner of our life will demand that some changes are made in our lives.

Jesus will start with our mind, this will need to be reprogrammed.

This renewing is done by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-21 [NIV] *“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

A list of the many things that enslave humans before Jesus Christ enters our lives and brings the Holy Spirit to dwell with and in us.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

The renewed thoughts and attitudes that are the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

All of the “fruits” are God-like characteristics, **we are being created in the “likeness” of God.**

This is the only way we can fulfil the second part of God's purpose for our being given life.

Is this what you want?

Do you accept our life being under new management?

For this is what it means to be a Christian.

Memory Verse:

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Next time we will look at one of the tools that God uses to renew our lives: prayer.