



Church of Christ

November 19, 2000

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Phil. 1:21) When a person lives for themselves, they will show what they are by their fruit. From their life will flow that mess of corruption according to their sinfulness.

A few years back, a friend of mine went to the bank with a \$70 check to have it cashed. The teller reached into the drawer and counted off ten \$10 bills. The teller counted it a second time and then a third. There was an extremely long line waiting behind my friend and the teller could see that also. The teller reached through the window and counted the ten \$10 bills again. My friend picked up the money and began to count it himself. The teller became a little agitated and said, **I have already counted it four times!** My friend quietly counted out the money for the \$70 check and said, **Sir, I think there has been a mistake.** The teller, looking at the long line, said in frustration, **There is no mistake!** My friend put the money through the window and said, **Please, count it one more time.** The teller sighed heavily, **...3,4,5,6"** as he began to get red in the face. **7"**, as he got redder. **8,9,10....** and he quietly looked up. Being embarrassed he said, **Sir, you must be a Christian!** It was not what was said that made the teller come to this conclusion, but what had been done.

If a person is living Christ, he will manifest the life of Christ in his own life. Living Christ means the life of Christ is being reproduced in the child of God. To live for yourself will only produce what you really are. **For to me, to live is Christ, and to die to gain.** Paul not only spoke of Christ and His loveliness but lived His life. When people look at a child of God, they should not see that individual, but Jesus Christ in them.

Paul calls attention to the life of Christ that will be manifested in the lives of those tied to Christ. **Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.** (Phil.1:27) Let your life become like Christ's! When Christ lives in someone, they will conduct themselves in a worthy manner. The way a person determines their conduct is by asking, **Is what I am about to do fitting for the Lord Jesus Christ?** **Does it become Him?** **Does it suit Him?** **Will my actions be those of Christ?**

When Christ's life is manifested in a person, that person will be in union with those that belong to Christ. **Standing firm in one spirit...** God's holy word teaches that believer is united with believer by sharing a common life in Christ. When we are tied to Christ, we will be rightly relating to others that are also tied. If one isn't living Christ, they will have little regard or desire for those tied to Christ. They will produce the life that they are living, which is for themselves!

When Christ is living in us, it will produce a **Oneness of mind striving for the faith of the gospel.** Their minds are set alike with one purpose of heart. Upholding the faith will be most important. Once again, unity will be the result.

Can you say, **For to me, to live is Christ?** When people look at you, who do they see? Do you adorn the Lord or make Him ashamed? Look at the fruit of your life and you will have the answers. Think about it!!!

Brent