



Mystery of Godliness: Christ in You

Image of Christ Series

Dr. Keith Walker

Keith.Walker@Usask.ca

Minister-at-Large C & MA, Mid West District

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Colossians 1:15: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the **mystery** that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this **mystery**, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. ²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. ² My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the **mystery** of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge . . .

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

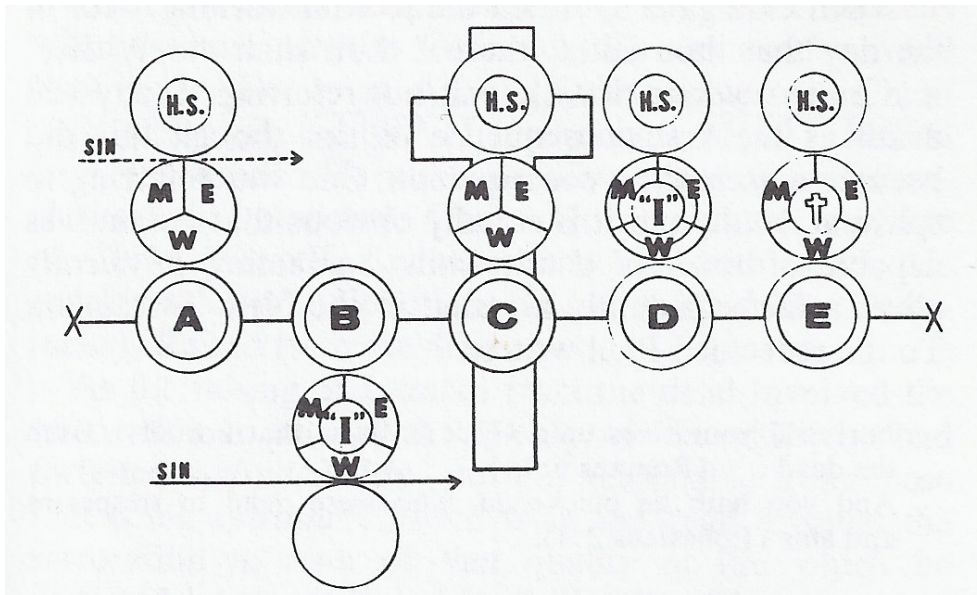
1. Review: Mirror Christianity (2 Corinthians 2 & 3)



2. Essence: The “elementary” truth is that to be alive in Jesus Christ is to experience Him living fully in us, reflecting His glory and producing His image. We need NOTHING else to live the abundant life He created us to live. He is EVERYTHING to us.

3. The Supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15-20)

4. The Mystery of God: Christ in You, the Hope of Glory (Colossians 1:25-2:3)



A = First Man, Adam (Rom 5:12)

B = Adam, without presence of God – Human spirit without God (Ego vs Deo-centric)

C = Christ, the Second/Last Adam who restored life to death

D = Carnal Christian – Image of God only partially restored (flesh vs. fruit of Spirit) – 2 Pt 1:4

E = Spiritual Christian – Alive in Christ and experiencing the mystery of godliness¹

5. Depth and Stability in Christ: Christ PLUS NOTHING (Colossians 2:6-10)

¹ Figure from Major Ian Thomas, *The Mystery of Godliness*