

Live In Me

Series: Following Jesus: Naturally Supernatural

John 15:4 TM (0917)

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John 15:4 TM *“Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you....”*

I. Jesus’ invitation—live in me—is often missed

a. Many people never hear the invitation

Matthew 7:13-14 NLT ¹³*“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way. ¹⁴But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it.*

b. Many who do hear misunderstand the nature of the invitation

Matthew 11:27 TM *“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*

c. Defining life in him—his presence permeates every part of life

II. Subtle hindrances to life in Christ

a. The “natural” resistance to life in Christ

Revelation 12:9 NLT *...the ancient serpent called the Devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.*

b. The temptation to deny grace

Colossians 2:6-23 NIV ⁶*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him...*

⁸*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*

...¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins...¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

¹⁸*Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions....*

...²⁰Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ²¹"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

²²These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. ²³Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Colossians 2:6-7 TM *You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it!*

c. The temptation to abuse grace

Eugene Peterson—*The people of Corinth had a reputation in the ancient world as an unruly, hard-drinking, sexually promiscuous bunch of people. When Paul arrived with the Message and many of them became believers in Jesus, they brought their reputations with them right into the church. (From Introduction to 1 Corinthians)*

1 Cor 5:2 NLT ²*And you are so proud of yourselves! Why aren't you mourning in sorrow and shame?*

1 Cor 6:12 TM *Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims.*

d. The common thread

Colossians 2:6-23 NIV ⁶*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him...*