

I. Looking for Christ in Life

A. When God saves

1. What He Does
 - a. Gives them faith to believe
 - (1) **Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)** *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*
 - b. Forgives the sin
 - (1) **Colossians 2:13 (ESV)**¹³ *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,*
 - (2) **Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*
 - c. Causes them to be spiritually reborn with a new heart, a new life, and a new nature
 - (1) **John 3:3 (ESV)**³ *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*
 - (2) **1 John 4:7 (ESV)** *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*
 - d. Sends the Holy Spirit to live in them
 - (1) Instructs their faithfulness to Jesus
 - (a) **John 14:26 (ESV)** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*
 - (2) Empowers their faithfulness to Jesus
 - (a) **Acts 1:8 (ESV)**⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
 - (b) **Romans 8:13 (ESV)**¹³ *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*
2. What Happens to the Saved Person
 - a. **A person genuinely saved by the grace of God through faith in Christ demonstrates the presence of Christ in their life through the power of the Holy Spirit.**
 - b. **2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)** *And we all, with unveiled face,*

beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

B. Christ in the Close of the Letter

1. Paul's closing paragraphs provide a practical example of demonstrating the presence of Christ
 - a. Christ in the Details of Ordinary Life 16:5-11
 - b. Christ in the Commands to Personal Faithfulness 16:12-18
 - c. Christ in the Fellowship Among Believers 16:19-24
2. Proposition
 - a. Just as Christ is visible in the details of the everyday lives of believers
 - b. Just as Christ is visible in our obedience to God's commands
 - c. **Christ is visible as well in the fellowship shared among the followers of Jesus**

II. Christ is Visible in the Fellowship Among Believers (5 CONDITIONS)

A. When Our Fellowship is Globally Inclusive 16:19a

1. A greeting is an acknowledgment of existence and an invitation to relationship
2. Churches in the vicinity of Ephesus acknowledge the Corinthian Christians and treat them as worthy of knowing
3. **Matthew 11:28 (ESV) *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.***
 - a. Provincialism - When we actively defeat the temptation to think of ourselves and our little group as our whole church world, we reflect God's love in Christ for all His redeemed children.
 - b. Globalism - **Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV) 9 *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"***
 - c. God has made us part of something bigger than ourselves and when we act consciously aware of other brothers and sisters, we demonstrate Christ's calling all people to faith

B. When Our Fellowship is Genuinely Affectionate 16:19b

1. Aquila & Priscilla - exiled from Rome, became Christians in Corinth then moved with Paul to Ephesus
2. Send a "whole heap of hellos!"
3. Affection for Corinthian Christians demonstrates the love Christ has for all His followers
4. **Romans 8:35-39 (ESV) 35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we***

are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- C. When Our Fellowship is Graciously Extended** 16:20a
1. No one wanted to be left out.
 2. United desire to share the relationship of love in Christ, despite probably being aware of why Paul is writing this letter
 3. Deep desire that love mold their lives in Christ
- D. When Our Fellowship is Godly Intimacy** 16:20b
1. Holy kiss: an expression of social intimacy that reflects the character of God
 2. Tearing down walls that divide us personally and entering each other's space with the heart and character of God
- E. When Our Fellowship is Gravely Personal** 16:21
1. Paul could have been accused simply directing someone else to send the Corinthians a letter
 - a. Paul's letter could have been labeled a fake and Paul's instructions ignored (a common practice in our day)
 - b. So, Paul signs the letter with his own signature
 2. Paul takes personal responsibility for their discipleship and his efforts to help them in their journey to Christ-likeness.
 3. Just as Christ has loved him, he loves them, and it shows.

III. Conclusion

A. The End of the Matter

1. **While it may sometimes be difficult for the world to find Jesus in our theology, it should not be that difficult for lost people to find Jesus in us!**
2. If the lost around us cannot find Jesus in us, then we ought to examine prayerfully and carefully
 - a. The details of our ordinary lives
 - b. The integrity of our faithfulness
 - c. The quality of our fellowship.

B. The Call to Intentional Discipleship

1. Every response of Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is a call to sound doctrine, personal holiness, and practical discipleship
2. Jesus
 - a. Take up your cross, deny yourself daily, follow me - intentional discipleship
 - b. Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith - intentional discipleship
 - (1) Know who God is
 - (2) Know what God desires
 - (3) Honor God with your lives