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**August 28, 2016**

**“CHRIST’S MIRROR IMAGE” – ‘Demonstration Stage**

**“CHRIST-LIFE BUILDING BLOCK FOUR – INTEGRITY”**

(1 Peter 2:22; Matthew 5:37; John 14:6; Hebrews 13:8; John 14:3)

**Intro ...** What a task we have set for ourselves. We are defining and discussing the greatest Human Life ever lived – the greatest human life that ever can be lived ... It's the '*Christ-Life*' – Humanity 2.0 – first lived on this earth by Jesus Himself and now being lived out by all those in whom '*Pneuma*' the Holy Spirit of God is producing it.

It's this '*Christ-Life*' – this Humanity 2.0 - that Paul was speaking of when He testified to the Galatian believers ... '*Christ lives in me.*' (Galatians 2:20) and when he pointed out in his second epistle to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 3:18) that all believers – all those who have been born-again by faith in Christ – are being '*transformed into Christ's Likeness*' by the Holy Spirit.

This is the final stage of discipleship – '*Christlikeness*' Itself!

Twelve Core Components or Building Blocks of this Christ-Life have caught our attention ... Twelve Essential Elements of '*Christ-Likeness*' that express the ultimate of Human Living – the essence of '**Humanity 2.0**'.

So far we have discussed **FOUR** of those **TWELVE**: Leadership, Passion, Tenderness and Patience.

Full-Blown Christ-Like Humanity 2.0 embodies and expresses **Leadership** – a desire to provide guidance and direction for those around us – a desire to genuinely benefit their lives.

Full-Blown Christ-Like Humanity 2.0 embodies and expresses **Passion** – a zeal and intensity and energy and joy that focuses itself upon doing and celebrating the plan and purposes of the Almighty.

Full-Blown Christ-Like Humanity 2.0 embodies and expresses **Tenderness** – a gentleness and compassion and empathy that reflect a real '*heart for people*' – a sensitivity that causes people in need to comfortably '*draw near*'.

Full-blown Christ-like Humanity 2.0 embodies and expresses **Patience** – a sense of composure, poise, and endurance in the face of difficulty or delay.

These are outstanding qualities of life displayed for all the world to see by Jesus Christ Himself. These four alone would indicate that a 'higher level' life is being demonstrated but these are only **four** of **twelve**. Just imagine the awesomeness of the entire package!

Today we turn our attention to the ***fifth*** ...

**CHRIST-LIFE BUILDING BLOCK FIVE: INTEGRITY**

Integrity expresses itself in qualities like:

**HONESTY** – **TRUTHFULNESS** – **STABILITY** – **FAITHFULNESS**

What incredible qualities for a human being to possess! They all flow from a heart that is pure and true. Jesus possessed just such a heart and so do those whom 'Pneuma' has shaped into His Image and Likeness.

**TODAY'S KEY VERSE ...**

"There was no **DECEIT** found in His mouth."  
(1 Peter 2:22)

**'No deceit'** – no speech designed to mislead or misrepresent. No speech designed to confuse or confound its audience. No speech designed to gain oneself an unfair advantage. No speech that is intentionally obscure or vague and thus easily denied or amended. No 'campaign rhetoric'.

Surely this life-trait of Jesus was just one more reason why "The common people heard him gladly" (Mark 12:37).

This, of course is the very quality of 'speech' that those who 'Walk with the Spirit into the Image of Christ' exhibit.

Jesus Christ was a 'Man of Integrity' and every word that came out of his mouth bore testimony to that fact.

Let's examine just a bit more closely those previously identified ...

**FOUR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEGRITY ...**

**\* HONESTY ...**

*"Let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no."  
(Matthew 5:37)*

In other words ...

**SPEAK Simple, Straightforward Truth"**

This instruction comes to us straight from the lips of Jesus Himself. It was given in His famous '*Sermon on the Mount*' ... that great afternoon discourse that delved into the deepest meaning of the Law of God – the Law that was designed to guide men and women to the fullest expression of the life that pleases God.

Jesus gave this instruction to counter the popular speech practice of his day that allowed people to '*say one thing but mean another*' – to use words that appeared to be words of commitment but really weren't.

Communication could be a tricky business in those days. For instance, a man could say in an apparent show of honesty ...

*'I swear to you by the Temple itself, that I will be there tomorrow.'*

Sounds like a firm commitment, doesn't it? He'll definitely be there.

However, that oath was not a binding oath because he didn't swear by '*the gold of the temple*'. It was just some more '*campaign rhetoric*' – words designed to make the hearer feel better but yet not obligate the speaker. It was a way to be dishonest without losing face.

How many times do we say ... "*I'll be there*" and think to ourselves '*unless something else comes up*'.

Jesus Christ and those who are living the '*Christ-Life*' know nothing of such duplicity and obscurity in speech.

He and they '*Speak simple, straightforward truth*'. They say it clearly and concisely and they mean what they say and thus you can believe them. It's a quality that causes them to stand out in today's increasingly ambiguous and nuanced world.

Here's another way Christ-Like Integrity expresses itself ...

^ **TRUTHFULNESS** ...

*"I am the way the truth and the life."*

(John 14:6)

In other words ...

**REVEAL** *Ultimate Truth*"

Jesus didn't mess around talking about meaningless things. Jesus understood the difference between things that are true and ultimate truth. And so do those in whom His Life is being formed.

For example ... It's certainly true that the sun came up this morning but the ultimate truth is that there is an Almighty God who created both the sun and the earth upon which it shines its light. Christ-Like Integrity lives to express those '*ultimate truths*'.

Linda and I spent a marvelous few days back East last week visiting our families and making some new friends in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

It's amazing how often and how easily our conversation turned to a declaration and discussion of our newly discovered delight in our earthly companion, '*Pneuma*' and the impact that that discovery has had upon our lives. We handed out a number of '*Nudges and Hugs*'.

It's like every other topic was merely '*filler*' until we could get to that one. Here is the ultimate truth for us '*born-again*', '*pneuma-companioned*' followers of Jesus ...

*"Our Heavenly Father and our Exalted Savior Jesus has sent the Almighty Holy Spirit, Pneuma, to companion us through life in this fallen world and to 'conform' us to the very image of Christ and our sole personal responsibility is to 'Keep in Step with Him'."*

One of those that Linda particularly got to share that ultimate truth with was her brother Jim's fabulously wealthy friend who has been saved for just a few years. This man, who escorted us through New York City in his Maserati Sports Car, was incredibly excited to begin a personal walk with the Spirit of God. Maybe someday he will visit us out here.

My dear almost 102 year-old Mom, who was spending the month with my older brother Keith and his wife, Linda, said ...

*"I've been reading those "Nudges and Hugs" (on her Kindle Reader) and I asked Laurene (her oldest daughter with whom she lives) to print me off a copy to bring with me for Keith and Linda."*

She wanted to be a 'Revealer of Some Ultimate Truth' as do all who are finding Christ-Life Integrity developing within them.

Here now is a third such 'Expression of Christ-Like Integrity' ...

**\* STABILITY ...**

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"*  
(Hebrews 13:8)

In other words, integrity causes us to ...

**STAND Firmly Upon The Truth"**

This in a sense goes back to the 'Let your yes be yes and your no be no'. The Christ-Life is a 'Convinced Life' ...

These things that we believe we believe with all our heart. We are not waiting for 'something better' to come along ... We are not 'keeping our options open'. We have 'Thrown in our lot' with Jesus Christ and all who know us know it.

This 'Walk with Pneuma' – This 'Daily Companionship with the Almighty' is not a 'phase' that we are going through – it is not merely the 'Latest topic' upon which I am preaching.

It has become an 'Ultimate Truth' ... it's the truth that Satan most fears for it is the very truth that unlocks the door to that 'Abundant Life' Jesus died to provide – It's the truth that will provide the context for everything I preach for the rest of my ministry.

Look at the front of your bulletin ... there's an additional statement identifying us as a congregation – have you noticed it?

Here's how it used to read ...

***Sonlife* COMMUNITY CHURCH**

*"A Cell-Based, Worship-Centered, Firstfruits-Funded,  
Overseer-Led, Annually-Renewed Community of Believers  
Experiencing and Sharing The Life of God's Son."*

*An exciting and descriptive statement!*

Here's how it reads now ...

*Sonlife* **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

*"A Cell-Based, Worship-Centered, Firstfruits-Funded, Overseer-Led, Pneuma-Companioned, Annually-Renewed Community of Believers Experiencing and Sharing The Life of God's Son."*

*An incredibly more complete statement!*

And now finally this morning, there is no one who is consciously 'Companioned by Pneuma' who will not find this Christ-Life Building Block called '**Integrity**' expressing itself in ...

\* **FAITHFULNESS** ...

*"If I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come back to take you to be with me."  
(John 14:3)*

**BUILD** Your Whole Life Around The Truth"

If Jesus said, then He meant it, and thus I can absolutely believe it and build my life around it!

All that our Exalted Savior is doing right now in heaven itself is in preparation for Him coming to receive all those who are His unto Himself. In our present day and age, He takes us one by one through the doorway called death but there's coming a day when He will gather His Church in one great moment. My mom, who turns 102 in another month, is still planning on seeing that day.

I today would build my whole life around the truth that the Almighty Most Holy Spirit of God, Pneuma Himself, is with me and is working in me to 'conform me' to the very Image of Christ – making me, among other things ... **A Person of Integrity.**

**Final Thot ...**

The 'Christ-Life' infuses every believer with **INTEGRITY** ...  
with a lifestyle characterized by  
**HONESTY** – **TRUTHFULNESS** – **STABILITY** and **FAITHFULNESS**.