



# NOT I, BUT CHRIST

THE HEART OF  
APOSTOLIC IDENTITY

## Not I, But Christ

Key Verse: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." - Galatians 2:20 (KJV)

### Introduction

This Mornings message is a declaration, a surrender, and a transformation-"Not I, but Christ." These five words carry the very heartbeat of true Apostolic living. This is not just theology; it's a testimony. It's not just doctrine; it's deliverance. Galatians 2:20 is more than a verse-it is the believer's anthem.

In a world that glorifies self-expression, self-promotion, and self-preservation, the Word calls us to a deeper truth: I am crucified with Christ. That means your identity, your ambition, your past, your pain-all of it-has been nailed to the cross. You no longer live; Christ lives in you!

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### I. Crucified With Christ

Paul begins with a strong and sobering truth: "I am crucified with Christ." Crucifixion is not easy. It's not clean. It's not comfortable. But it is necessary. You can't truly live until you have truly died to self.

Romans 6:6 (KJV) says, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed..." There is no resurrection without crucifixion. There is no Pentecost without Calvary.

This death to self is not symbolic; it's spiritual. It begins with repentance-turning away from sin and turning toward God. When you repent, you say, "Lord, I no longer want to be in control. I lay down my desires, my pride, and my rebellion."

This is why Acts 2:38 (KJV) is the cornerstone of Apostolic salvation: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." Repentance is your crucifixion. Baptism is your burial. The Holy Ghost is your resurrection.

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## II. Nevertheless I Live; Yet Not I

The paradox of Christianity is here: "Nevertheless I live; yet not I." You are alive-but it's not you who's living. It's not your mind, your flesh, your ego-it's Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) declares, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Your identity is no longer based on what you've done, where you've been, or what others say. It's based on who Christ is within you.

Think of Paul himself-once Saul, a murderer of Christians. Yet when Christ met him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), everything changed. He said, "Who art thou, Lord?" and Jesus said, "I am Jesus..." From that moment on, Saul died, and Paul lived-but not by his own strength.

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## III. Christ Liveth In Me

This is the glory of the Gospel: "Christ liveth in me." You're not walking alone. You are not trying to please God in your own strength. Jesus is not a distant God. He is the indwelling Savior!

John 15:5 (KJV) says, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him... for without me ye can do nothing."

You can sing, but without Him, it means nothing.

You can preach, but without Him, it has no power.

You can serve, but without Him, it's empty.

Colossians 1:27 (KJV) proclaims, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Not just Christ for you, or Christ beside you, but Christ in you!

This is why the infilling of the Holy Ghost is not optional-it is essential. When you receive the Spirit, you receive power (Acts 1:8), guidance (John 16:13), and transformation (Titus 3:5).

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#### IV. The Life Which I Now Live in the Flesh

We still walk in the flesh-but we do not walk after the flesh.

"The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God." This faith is not just mental agreement-it's total dependence. Every breath, every decision, every step is taken by trusting in Christ's power and promise.

Habakkuk 2:4 (KJV) and Romans 1:17 (KJV) both declare, "The just shall live by his faith." Faith is not passive. Faith is active. It walks. It obeys. It holds on when things don't make sense.

Abraham is a perfect example. God asked him to sacrifice Isaac-the promise he had waited years for. And Abraham obeyed, believing that God was able to raise him from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19). That's living by faith!

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#### V. Who Loved Me and Gave Himself for Me

Let's bring it home: "Who loved me, and gave himself for me."

This Gospel is not generic-it's personal. Jesus didn't just die for the world-He died for you. The blood He shed on Calvary had your name on it.

Romans 5:8 (KJV): "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

John 3:16 (KJV): "For God so loved the world..." But make it personal: "For God so loved me..."

The greatest love you will ever know is not in human relationships-it's in the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. He didn't give a portion of Himself-He gave it all. He laid down His life so that you could pick yours up.

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## Conclusion: A Call to Die, So You Can Truly Live

It's time to make a decision. Are you living by your own will, or have you truly surrendered? Have you crucified the flesh, or are you still trying to serve God on your terms?

Jesus is calling you to the altar-not to lay something down, but to lay yourself down. Not I, but Christ.

Let the church rise up as a people who say:

\* I don't need applause. Not I, but Christ.

\* I don't need recognition. Not I, but Christ.

\* I don't need comfort or control. Not I, but Christ.

Let this message transform your mind, renew your spirit, and stir your soul. It's not enough to carry a cross-we must be crucified upon it.

Let's go to the altar-not just to pray, but to surrender