

Series: In Christ

May 4-5, 2019

## **Title: Christ in You**

**[Slide 1]**

**Text: Romans 8:5-12**

### **Plugged In:**

#### **The Grid:**

Every day in innumerable ways, we make the choice access the grid that energizes our homes and businesses with electric power. The grid is a vast and unimaginably complex network of generating plants, transmission lines, and sub-stations and transformers that ultimately bring electricity to your home. When you plug in a hair dryer or charge your phone, you are plugging into that vast grid. Every little bit of energy that goes into your device began its journey at a power plant perhaps hundreds of miles away.

Your device or appliance can only be energized if it is plugged in: "in the grid." Unplug a lamp and becomes a weird, dark, oddly shaped ornament. It has no life or purpose. Plug it in, and it comes to life. The lamp lights up the room. All because the lamp is "in the grid."

#### **In Christ:**

The same thing is true when it comes to following Jesus. Paul says that

**[Slide 2]**

*Romans 8:1 NIV*

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...*

When we put our trust in Him and let His story be our story, His death for sin take the place of our death, His resurrection the promise of our resurrection, we are "in Christ."

Our old way of living – what Paul calls living "according to the flesh" – is powerless in the face of the sin and darkness of this world.

**[Slide 3]**

*Romans 8:6-8 NIV*

*The mind governed by the flesh is death...*

*The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

*Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.*

Our old way of living is like the lamp in your living room when it's unplugged. It may look nice. It may offer the promise of lighting up the room when the sun goes down. But when you go to turn it on – nothing. It has no power on its own.

**Plugged In:**

What a difference when we are "plugged in" to Christ!

**[Slide 4]**

*Romans 8:6b NIV*

*...but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.*

We become what God made us to be. When we're plugged into Christ:

**[Slide 5]**

*Philippians 2:14-16a NIV*

*Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.*

The most important question you will ever face in your life is this: Are you "in Christ"? And it's a question we need to ask ourselves every day, even if we have been trusting in Jesus for years! The lamp never lights up on its own.

## **Christ in You**

### **The Spirit *in you!***

Now Paul turns the phrase “in Christ” inside out:

#### **[Slide 6]**

*Romans 8:9 NIV*

*You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.*

Instead of focusing on our being “in Christ,” he says that the Spirit of God lives in you. The Spirit of God, he goes on to explain, is the same as the Spirit of Christ. Having God’s Spirit live in us is the supreme mark of the Christian. You cannot be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit living in you!

And here we find ourselves experiencing the fulfillment of God’s purpose for human beings. It had always been God’s purpose to dwell with and in His people. Paul tells the Corinthians:

#### **[Slide 7]**

*2 Corinthians 6:16 NIV*

*For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:*

*“I will live with them  
and walk among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.”*

When we’re “plugged in” to Christ, He comes through His Spirit to live in us!

### **The Spirit’s Life *in you:***

When God’s Spirit lives *in us*, we are energized by His Life. It’s like the lamp that is plugged into the grid. Not only is the lamp in the grid, but the grid, with its limitless power, is *in the lamp*. God takes us, just as we are with all

our doubts and fears, weaknesses and failures. He doesn't demand that we bring ourselves to life; He brings His Life to us, when He moves in.

And this promise of God's life – eternal, deathless life – extends to our physical bodies as well!

### **[Slide 8]**

*Romans 8:11 NIV*

*And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

Once again: Jesus' story is our story. God raised Jesus from death through the creative power of His Spirit. He promises to do the same for all who have God's Spirit living – dwelling – in them.

Nothing can unplug us from the power of God:

### **[Slide 9]**

*Romans 8:37-39 NIV*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## **A Sacred Trust**

### **Staying plugged in:**

I have a pellet stove in the basement that helps keep us warm all winter. But in order to work, it has to be – you guessed it – plugged in. A few weeks

ago, I went down to check on it and it was out. I checked the fuel hopper and it was full of pellets. At first I wondered if the stove had bit the dust. Then, I went over to the plug, pulled it out of the socket and plugged it back in. The stove instantly came to life.

You and I are like that plug. We can become unplugged. Or even if we think we're plugged in, the connection can become corroded and broken. That's why Paul tells the Romans:

**[Slide 10]**

*Romans 8:12-13 NIV*

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

Remember, our "default" nature is to go back to being unplugged. But we no longer have any obligation to live that way. We have the opposite obligation: to put to death that whole way of living and thinking, so that we stay "in Christ" and His Spirit dwells unhampered in us.

**A Sacred Trust:**

Think of this as a sacred trust. In ancient times, God chose to dwell in a temple. The temple and its surrounding courtyards were sacred spaces. You could only approach God if you purified yourself and brought the proper offerings.

Now, you and I are God's temple. We are God's sacred space. He has entrusted to each one of us the privilege of being His home. Our duty is to make sure that each and every day it is a place that welcomes Him and Him alone.

As we come to the Communion Table, take a walk through the "temple" and see if your thoughts and actions make God welcome. If not, ask His forgiveness and let His Spirit strengthen you to live in His love and power.