



“Ask me whether what I have done is my life.” ... The poet’s words remind me of moments when it is clear – if I have eyes to see – that the life I am living is not the same as the life that wants to live in me.

In those moments I sometimes catch a glimpse of my true life, a life hidden like the river beneath the ice. And in the spirit of the poet, I wonder: What am I meant to do? Who am I meant to be?

Parker J. Palmer

- A discovery of your ‘true self’ – your life with God
- Represented by the language of ‘Consuming Jesus’

1. UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT

GALATIANS 2:15-16

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

Galatians 2:15-18

JUSTIFIED

- Used 3x in verse 16
- Made righteous
- God is righteous, we are not

LAW

- “Works of the law” (NRSV) or “observing the law” (NIV)
- Used 3x in verse 16
- Pulling up your own socks

FAITH / BELIEF IN JESUS

- Used 3x in verse 16
- Not intellectual assent but a committed life to Jesus

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

- “Life in the Spirit” – more common
- “Christ in me” – more common
- Essentially both terms mean the same thing

LIVING BY FAITH LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

- Both phrases essentially mean the same thing

2. TRUE SELF FALSE SELF GALATIANS 2:19 20

FALSE SELF

- The self-centred life of Ego
- “For through the law I died to the law ...” (v19)
- “It is no longer I who live ...” (v20)

All sin starts from the assumption that my false self, the self that exists only in my own egocentric desires, is the fundamental reality of life to which everything else in the universe is ordered.

Thus I use up my life in the desire for pleasures and the thirst for experiences, for power, honour, knowledge and love, to clothe this false self and construct its nothingness into something objectively real.

Thomas Merton

TRUE SELF

- The self of unselfish love found in Jesus Christ
- “It is Christ who lives in me” (v20)
- “And the life I now live... I live by faith in the son of God...” (v20b)

Ultimately the only way that I can be myself is to become identified with Him in Whom is hidden the reason and fulfillment of my existence.

Therefore there is only one problem on which all my existence, my peace and my happiness depend: to discover myself in discovering God. If I find Him I will find myself and if I find my true self I will find Him.

Thomas Merton

3. SO WHAT?

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION
SOCIAL RELEVANCE

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION

- Finding and resting in the true you
- Not a loss of self but a discovery of who you are
- Being in Christ now (v20)

Christ in me is not some narrow, introspective, disembodied, private, even embarrassing fact, specially savoured by a narrow sect within the larger Christian community. It is an all-encompassing, all-empowering fact from which no quarter of my worship can be excused.

Harold M. Best

A SOCIAL RELEVANCE

- Participating in the new community of faith - not a solo performance
- Part of God's new people
- Being part of the fellowship

- A responsibility to incarnate Jesus
- Not a system of works
- Rather a yielding of one's self to Jesus

**4. MUTUAL
INDWELLING
THE VINE
THE LORD'S TABLE**

VINE AND BRANCHES

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

THE LORD'S TABLE

'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

1 Corinthians 11:24b-25