

Living Communion or Dead Religion? *(Letter to Sardis)*

December 11, 2014

Revelation 3:1-6

- 1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; **I KNOW THY WORKS, THAT THOU HAST A NAME THAT THOU LIVEST, AND ART DEAD.**
- 2 **BE WATCHFUL, AND STRENGTHEN THE THINGS WHICH REMAIN, THAT ARE READY TO DIE:** for I HAVE NOT FOUND THY WORKS PERFECT BEFORE GOD.
- 3 **REMEMBER THEREFORE HOW THOU HAST RECEIVED AND HEARD, AND HOLD FAST, AND REPENT. IF THEREFORE THOU SHALT NOT WATCH, I WILL COME ON THEE AS A THIEF,** and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
- 4 **THOU HAST A FEW NAMES EVEN IN SARDIS WHICH HAVE NOT DEFILED THEIR GARMENTS; AND THEY SHALL WALK WITH ME IN WHITE: FOR THEY ARE WORTHY.**
- 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but **I WILL CONFESS HIS NAME BEFORE MY FATHER,** and before his angels.
- 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Galatians 2:20-21

- 20 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.
- 21 **I DO NOT FRUSTRATE THE GRACE OF GOD: FOR IF RIGHTEOUSNESS COME BY THE LAW, THEN CHRIST IS DEAD IN VAIN.**

John 15:1-6

- 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- 3 **NOW YE ARE CLEAN THROUGH THE WORD WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN UNTO YOU.**
- 4 **ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU. AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT OF ITSELF, EXCEPT IT ABIDE IN THE VINE; NO MORE CAN YE, EXCEPT YE ABIDE IN ME.**
- 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: **HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM, THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT: FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.**
- 6 **IF A MAN ABIDE NOT IN ME, HE IS CAST FORTH AS A BRANCH, AND IS WITHERED;** and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 17:3

"And **THIS IS LIFE** (*zoe - the absolute fullness of life which belongs to God*) **ETERNAL, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW** (*ginosko - learn by experience*) **THEE** the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

THE HEALTH OF A RELATIONSHIP:

- TRUST
- COMMUNICATION & COMMUNION
- VULNERABILITY & INTIMACY
- UNITY OF HEART & PURPOSE

2 Peter 1:2-3

- 2 **GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED UNTO YOU THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**, and of Jesus our Lord,
3 According as **HIS DIVINE POWER HATH GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS, THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM THAT HATH CALLED US TO GLORY AND VIRTUE.**

Romans 8:10-16

- 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
11 **BUT IF THE SPIRIT OF HIM THAT RAISED UP JESUS FROM THE DEAD DWELL IN YOU, HE THAT RAISED UP CHRIST FROM THE DEAD SHALL ALSO QUICKEN YOUR MORTAL BODIES BY HIS SPIRIT THAT DWELLETH IN YOU.**
12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.
13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but **IF YE THROUGH THE SPIRIT DO MORTIFY THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, YE SHALL LIVE.**
14 **FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED** (*to carry, to bring*) **BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD.**
15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Hebrews 2:1-3

- 1 Therefore **WE OUGHT TO GIVE THE MORE EARNEST HEED TO THE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE HEARD, LEST AT ANY TIME WE SHOULD LET THEM SLIP.**
2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;
3 **HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE, IF WE NEGLECT SO GREAT SALVATION;** which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;