**Jesus Christ + nothing**

Jesus Christ has life in Himself

* “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” Jn 1:4
* "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.” Jn 5:26
* So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, **you have no life in yourselves**. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.“
* Christ has life in Himself, we do not.
* His self-perpetuating life is always new.
* His self- perpetuating life is for eternity.
* His life is self regenerating life.

**“Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,” Jn 11:25**

* Because He is eternal
* He has endurance
* Because He is always faithful
* He is love, joy, wisdom, and peace.
* In Him we have eternal life
* As we experience Him, we endure.
* As we have Him, we will remain fervent in the faith.
* As we walk in Him, we love, experience His joy, wisdom, and peace.
* It is important that we are clinging to the person of Jesus.
  + That we are feasting **on Him** and His life.
  + That the **person of Christ** is our focus.
  + That the **person of Christ** is what we are pressing into.
  + That the **person of Christ** is our primary meditation.
* Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." - Luk 10:38-42
* “For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, **Christ Himself**, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.” Col 2:1-4
* “Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; **but the substance belongs to Christ**. Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and **not holding fast to the head**, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.” Col 2:16-19

**There are things we can focus on that are near to Jesus Christ or about Christ but are not Jesus Christ Himself.**

* These things can lead us to Him.
* These things can result from Him, although they are not Him.
* Music
* Being right
* Ministry
* Learning
* Having a better marriage
* Raising kids properly
* Self improvement
* Giving
* Personal growth
* Holiness
* Healing
* Being a good steward / money
* Pursuing the manifestations of the Spirit.
* Fellowship /the church
* Methodology/formulas
* The word of God (apart from Christ)
* Prayer
* Faith
* Healthy living
* Relationships
* Unity
* Truth
* Correct forms / structures
* Right living
* Pursuing only the meeting experience

**Christendom constantly adds to more to just Christ Himself as being the only point.**

* The flesh is not content with Jesus and Him alone
* We often want to pursue other interests, causes, and truths that are about Him, but not Him.
* He is our righteousness
* He is our life
* He is our truth
* He is wisdom
* He is our satisfaction
* He is the goal
* He is the secret to the Christian life
* “that I may **know** **Him** and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;” Phil 3:10
* “And we **know** that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may **know** **Him** who is true; and we are in **Him** who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.” 1 Jn 5:20
* Christ alone daily being our goal may seem “ethereal” or vague.
  + Truly encountering the reality of His presence is our highest calling.
  + Out of this comes all direction, wisdom, encouragement, strength, etc.
  + He will lead us to focus on certain things or to do certain things. But it must begin with Him and remain in Him.

Possible Discussion Questions:

* What kinds of “things” do we (you) tend to personally focus on that are close to him or near him but are not Christ Himself?
* Why do you think you tend to gravitate toward these type of things?

The more we taste of the purity of Jesus Himself, the more of Him we want.

We should make it a priority to experience and encounter Jesus Christ in a real way on a daily basis.

We should not be distracted by pursuing things or ideas that are “about” Him, but are not Him.