"Christ In Us: Consistent Living"

Growth Group Guide

October 12, 2025

WELCOME (Connecting with each other)

Think of a practice you do consistently, on a daily basis (ex. brush your teeth, take a walk, drink coffee or tea, etc.). Have you ever had a day where you missed doing it? If so, how did your day go without it? Did you have to change anything to get back on your routine? How do you approach living a consistent and authentic Christian life?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER (Connecting with God)

Read the verses below. Praise God that in Christ we can live a consistent, authentic Christian life!

2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV) But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Psalm 68:35 (ESV) Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

WORD (Letting God speak to us)

- 1. **Read 1 John 2:5b-6 (NIV).** When you've heard it said we are to live as Jesus did, what have you pictured that to look like?
- 2. Many times people think living like Jesus is about mimicking His behavior in every possible situation in life. What sort of issues arise when this is how we attempt to live like Jesus?
- 3. Read John 5:19, 5:30, 6:38, 6:57, and 8:28. What do you learn about how Jesus lived from these verses? Reread 1 John 2:5b-6 (NIV). How does what you read in John's gospel change how you might look at what he wrote here in 1 John?
- 4. Warren Wiersbe, Biblical scholar, says we don't live as Jesus by imitation but by incarnation (by the Spirit). How does that add to this conversation?
- 5. Read 1 John 2:27-28 (NIV). In these verses, when you see the word "anointing," that is the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in these verses? Does this mean we don't need teachers? Why or why not? (Hint: Ephesians 4:11)
- 6. In v27, what is the Holy Spirit teaching us about? Is this different from what you thought He teaches us? Why is this important?
- 7. John puts a lot of emphasis on us knowing and having confidence that we are in Christ. He makes it a central point of Christianity. Why do you think that might be?
- 8. **Read 1 John 3:4-6 (NIV).** What things describe a Christian, someone who is in Christ in these verses? What things describe a non-Christian, someone who is in Adam in these verses? How is Jesus described? Share why it's important for our Christian life to know these details?

- 9. You are born of God spiritually. With that in mind, read 1 John 3:9. What do you learn about yourself in this verse?
- 10. Satan distracts or confuses us when it comes to living in Christ. Share your thoughts on how he does that. How might you encourage others with this in a nonjudgmental way?
- 11. Have you or someone you know become a Christian, and when they did, they were no longer comfortable with sin? Share with the group as you feel comfortable. What can we learn from these stories?

WALK (Living out God's purposes)

- One Big Idea: If we are living in Jesus, we live as He did and as a result, we do not continue to sin. Have you seen how living in Jesus and focusing on his method of dependence, is essential to living an effective Christian life? It's essential to your confidence as a Christian and to knowing you are IN Him too. The verses we looked at from John and 1 John reveal how being in Jesus redefines our attitude toward sin and doing sinful things. Your view of yourself, dear Christian, is defined by Him now rather than sin. Satan will do all he can to pull you off point, but you can trust the Holy Spirit to protect you from any lie or counterfeit source trying to move you away from dependence on Jesus and living life IN Him. You don't have to mimic Jesus you can live authentically Christian IN Him.
- ✓ Talk to God this week about any way you see you are letting yourself be defined by sin rather than by being in Christ. Reject the lies and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power to walk in the truth, to walk away from any sin, and instead to develop a habit of living more and more in Jesus. God's grace is there for you. He will grow you up in Jesus so your life shows your true identity in Him and His power and character in and through you in ever increasing consistency.

WORLD (Embracing God's heart for others)

Our missionaries in Turkey recently sent an update about their summer activities. They wrote, *"At the end of July, a church invited us to help a Korean group who was hosting a children's program at their church. We purchased foam mats for the workers and invited them twice for meals and showers at the Building. They built relationships with our renter's children, and we again had the opportunity to invite them to the program. On the third day of the program, we packed our cars full and transported 16 refugee children from 7 different families to attend. ... We also went to several stores to collect 125 of each item to make packages of basic school supplies for kids. ... then started passing them out in our neighborhood. [Many children received packages], and every child was so happy to get these materials. We know it is difficult for many families to purchase even the most basic school supplies... Pray that these seeds of the love and joy of Jesus will grow in the hearts of these children and their families." *(September 2025 Newsletter)

[Copies of this Guide are available at https://thurston.church/resources]