

Christ Formed In Us

Text: Gal 4:19-20 NLT

¹⁹ Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. ²⁰ I wish I were with you right now so I could change my tone. But at this distance I don't know how else to help you.

Background:

Paul had poured his life, at no small risk, into the establishment of the churches in Galatia, established out of paganism. He had preached the gospel to them. He, like a pregnant woman, had endured the agonies of bringing the gospel and having it finally be believed, and they literally be born into the kingdom of light.

He is enduring pain again, the same kind of pain, the pain that longs for them to become what they are not yet. This time it is "labor pain until Christ is formed in you." At first it was "labor pain until Christ is in you." And now he longs that Christ be formed in them, or that they become Christlike.

They have become believers, Christ lives in them, but they have not taken on the form of Christ. He wishes that he could be present as he writes this letter, so that he could personally hands-on aid them in this Christ formation.

They are true believers; that is affirmed. They have begun in the Spirit. They are in Christ, but Christ is not yet fully formed in them. And rather than them pursuing that, they are caught up in being foolish and becoming bewitched by some false teachers who are leading them to a misunderstanding of the gospel,

Spiritual Formation

Spiritual Formation is the ongoing process where believers learn and develop right relationships with God, self, and others as they are formed spiritually to act and behave like Jesus.

3 Goals of Spiritual Formation

- To grow into Christ-likeness at the personal level.
- To grow into Christ-likeness as community.
- To establish the Kingdom of God at the missional level.

Abundant Life Church Integrated Discipleship Model



Spiritual Formation: Loving God With All Our Being

Matt 22:35-40 (NIV)

³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Applications:

- Prayer
- Loving God's Word
- Loving God
- Listening and Obeying God's Voice in All Things

Personal Wholeness: Spirit Soul & Body

1 Thes. 5:23-24 (NIV)

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Applications:

- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality
- Fruit of The Spirit
- Sexual Integrity
- Clean Conscience
- Self Discipline & Management

Healthy Relationships: Loving Our Neighbors As Ourselves

Jn. 13:34-35 NIV

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Applications:

- Blessing Generations
- Emotionally Healthy Relationships
- Forgiveness
- Healthy Singleness/Marriage & Family
- Hospitable
- Sacrificial
- Compassionate

Vocational Clarity - Having A Clear Sense of Personal Purpose

1 Peter 4:10-11 NLT

¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Applications:

- Insight Into Calling, Gifts, and Talents
- Leadership Development
- Personal and Family Mission
- Mentoring
- Stewardship

Economics and Work - Serving God At Home, Work, And In Our Communities

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴ Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ

Tyndale House Publishers, [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Col 3:23–24.

Applications:

- Avodah: Worship, Work, and Service Integration
- Financial Stewardship
- Community & Economic Development
- Housing
- Workforce Development/Entrepreneurship

- Workplace Theology
- Biblical Justice