

Knowing Christ

Knowing Christ: **1 JOHN 2:12-14**

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Fathers	Know CHRIST – "Him who is from the beginning"	The Lord IN them, governing, the eternal One's presence

Knowing the Father → to → Knowing Christ

Aspect	A. Immature	B. Developing	C. Mature
Knowledge	Father	Word abiding	Christ (Him from the beginning)
Warfare	Mostly passive	Overcome the evil one	Live from union
Faith	Basic trust	Persuasion (shield)	Christ's faith (persuasion) expressed thru them
Obedience	External	Responsive	Christ's inner governance
Thought life	Vulnerable	Must resist lies	Christ's voice captains (Governs) their mind
Identity	Forgiven	Strong	Formed into Christlikeness
Union	Seed reality	Growing	Full interior communion

The Core Distinctions

Term	What It Means
LORD	What Jesus IS - His objective position, authority, sovereignty
CHRIST	What He DOES - His governing work, His active formation in us
Knowing Christ	Experiencing the Lord IN US - the mature "fathers" who know Him who is from the beginning

Knowing Christ Means

- **Not just knowing about Jesus as Lord (children know this),**
 - **But experiencing the Lord Jesus as Christ governing IN us (fathers know this).**
- **Knowing Christ = Knowing the Lord in His functional, indwelling, governing role within us**
 - Christ = The Lords Internal presence IN YOU
 - The anointed Word/Logos who dwells in and **transforms** believers **from the inside out**

The Explains Why

- **Everyone can confess "Jesus is Lord"**
 - (this is objective truth)
- **But only mature believers "know Christ"**
 - (subjective experience of His governing work)
- **Christ is formed "only in some"**
 - because not all progress to experiencing His active governance

Apostle Paul: Knowing Christ (Paul's Language of Inner Formation)

Progressing Through the Stages of Maturity/Revelation

Confession

Jesus is Lord



Rom 10:9

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with your
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Indwelling

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Christ In



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Confession →	Indwelling →	Formation
Jesus is Lord	Christ In	Christ Formed
↓	↓	↓
Rom 10:9 ...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord , and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved	Col 1:27 ... Christ in you , the hope [realized glory, experienced <u>now</u>] of glory.	Gal 4:19 My <u>children</u> , with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell [to settle down, to make one's home] in your hearts through faith

Apostle Paul: Knowing Christ (Paul's Language of Inner Formation)

Progressing Through the Stages of Maturity/Revelation

Confession →	Indwelling →	Formation →	Maturity ✓
Jesus is Lord	Christ In	Christ Formed	Christ <u>Expressed</u>
↓	↓	↓	↓
<p>Rom 10:9 ...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved</p>	<p>Col 1:27 ...Christ in you, the hope [realized glory, experienced <u>now</u>] of glory.</p>	<p>Gal 4:19 My <u>children</u>, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you</p> <p>Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell [to settle down, to make one's home] in your hearts through faith</p>	<p>Eph 4:13 <u>until we all attain [maturing]</u> to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness [plemora: fill to the brim with Christ] of Christ.</p>

Progression

1. JESUS IS LORD
2. We confess Him as Lord (**Rom 10:9**) → Salvation
3. CHRIST IN US (**Col 1:27**)
4. We LOVE Him because He first loved us (**1 Jo 4:19**)
5. "IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS" (**Jo 14:15, 21, 23**)
6. His LOGOS in us discerns (**Heb 4:12**)
7. His RHEMA to us commands (**Isa 30:21**)
8. We OBEY from love (not duty)
9. CHRIST BEING FORMED IN US (**Gal 4:19**)
10. "We know we have come to know Him if we keep His commands"
(**1 John 2:3**)
11. KNOWING CHRIST = Experiencing Lord governing IN us
12. CHRIST FULLY FORMED (**Eph 4:13**)

- **Jesus Is Lord of All**

- **Yet Christ Is Formed Only in Some**

- **1Pe 3:15** but **sanctify** Christ as Lord in your hearts...

- **"...sanctify **Christ** as Lord in your hearts."**

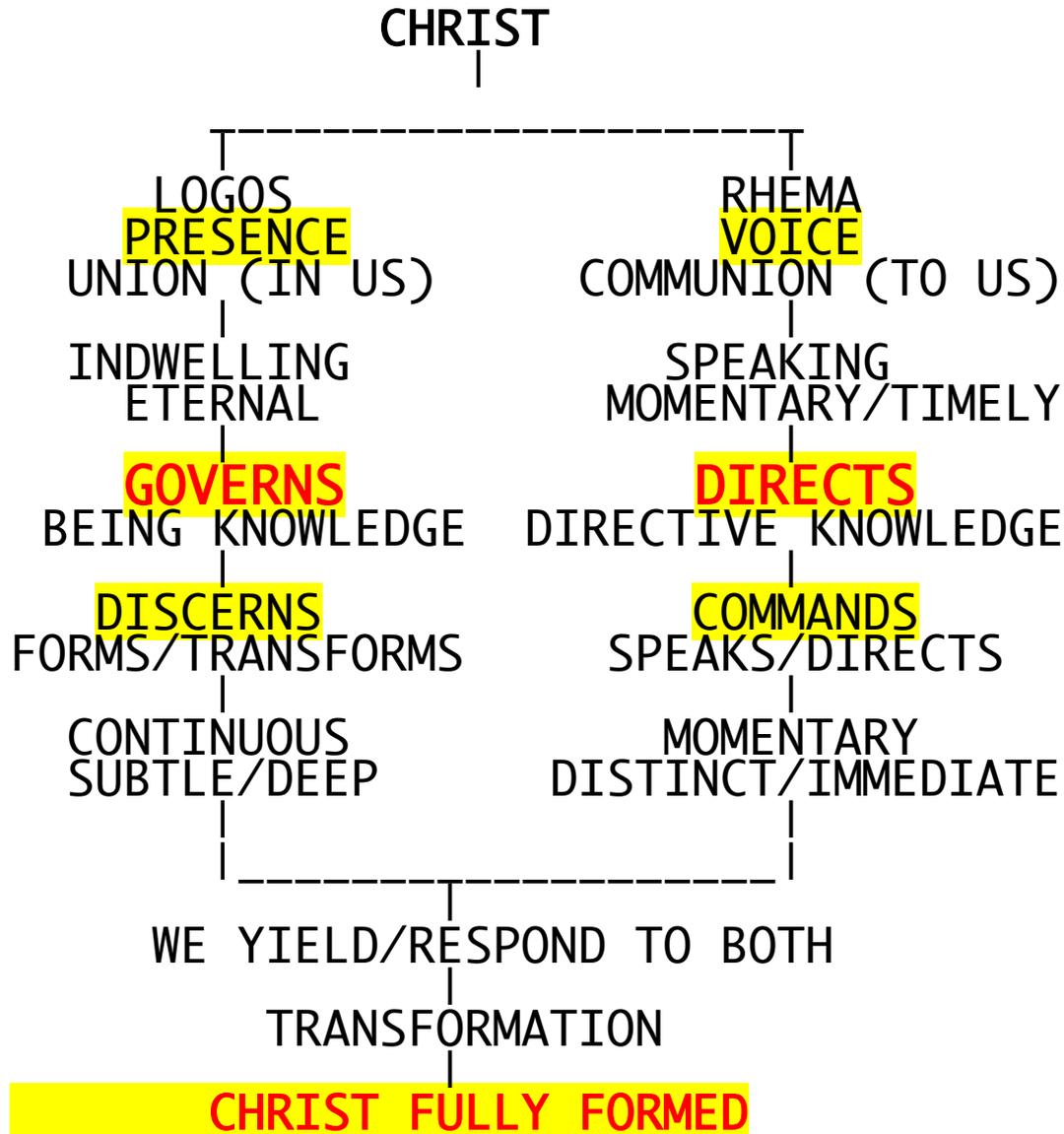
- **It's not about:**

- "making" Him Lord (He already is)
 - "giving" Him authority (He already has it).

- **It's about**

- Recognizing/acknowledging His Lordship in the sphere where Christ dwells
 - **Our hearts.**
 - Setting apart [**sanctify**] as holy what is already true.

True maturity is Christ increasingly expressed from w/in.



Christ's Manages the Inner Life: The Logos & Rhema Inside

- **His Word (Logos) Governs** the Mind
 - Christ in us as Logos discerns thoughts (Heb 4:12).
 - Christ in us speaks Rhema to guide steps (Eph 6:17).
- **This is not mental self-management**
 - It is **Christ managing** the inner life.
 - We cannot “take every thought captive” by 80,000-thought self-effort.
- **The Voice from behind (Isaiah 30:21) is unsolicited, guiding.**
 - Our role is acknowledgment
 - His role is **governing**.
 - Rhema is not a “tool”
 - It is a Person speaking.
- **Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17; Matt 4:4; Isa 30:21**

THE LITMUS TEST (1 John 2:3-6):

1 John 2:3 — "We know that we have come to **know Him** if we keep His commands"

1 John 2:4 — "Whoever says, 'I know Him,' but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person"

1 John 2:5-6 — "But if anyone obeys His word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did"

Translation:

- **Keeping commands** = Evidence of **knowing Christ** (not just knowing about Him)
- **Not keeping commands** = Not yet **knowing Christ** experientially (still at children stage)
- **Living as Jesus lived** = **Christ fully formed** in you

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Christ's Manages the Inner Life: The Logos & Rhema Inside

LORD	COMMANDMENTS/LOVE	CHRIST
What He IS	The connection	What He DOES
Objective position	Love responds to Him	Subjective experience
All confess Him	"If you love Me, keep My commandments"	Only some experience His formation
External authority	Obedience from love	Internal governance
Everyone acknowledges	Not everyone obeys consistently	Not everyone matures
Jesus IS Lord of all	Love + Obedience = the pathway	Christ formed only in some

Christ's Manages the Inner Life: The Logos & Rhema Inside

- **ALL who confess Jesus as Lord have:**
 - - Christ IN them (positional - Col 1:27)
 - - Capacity to hear His voice
 - - Capacity to obey

- **BUT ONLY SOME:**
 - - Actually LOVE Him deeply enough to obey consistently
 - - Keep His commandments (not from duty but love)
 - - Progress through the stages
 - - Experience CHRIST FORMED in them
 - - KNOW CHRIST (not just know about Him)

Knowing Christ

- **The Divine Craftsmanship**
- **Prov 20:12** The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made both.

Knowing Christ: His Internal Presence In You

- **1 Cor 2:16** We have the mind (heart/eye/ear) of Christ.
- We have Christ's own faculty of seeing the Father.