

INTIMACY AND COMPATIBILITY

To understand what it means to live a life of compatibility with the Lord, we need to consider the example of the Lord's human living. What we see in the Lord's relationship with the Father is that His compatibility with the Father came out of His intimacy with the Father. John 1:18 reveals that the only begotten Son is "into the bosom of the Father." This shows His intimate fellowship with the Father. John 15:9-10 indicates that He was abiding in the Father's love. It was out of this kind of love-intimacy that He lived a life of complete compatibility with the Father's life and will.

The Lord's example reveals the principle by which we can live day by day being compatible with His voice. It is simple. Compatibility with the divine life comes by cultivating a life of intimacy. We all recognize that this is true in the marriage life. How is a wife compatible with her husband? How does she live to please her husband? The compatibility of a wife with her husband is dependent upon her intimacy with her husband. Her intimacy with her husband creates and nurtures the desire to please him.

The Holy Spirit's terms in the New Testament for compatibility are "pleasing" and "well pleasing." John 8:28-29 says, ²⁸"Then Jesus said to them, When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. ²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that *please* Him." In other words, the reason for His compatibility with

the Father was that He heard the Father's voice because of His life of intimacy with the Father. He was sensitive to what the Father *taught* Him, not only because the Father was with Him all the time, but because He was always abiding in the Father's love. This was the reason there was such a constant supply coming from the Lord. He lived in the Father and was always doing that which was compatible with the Father.

According to the prophecy about the Lord's life in Isaiah 50:4-5, the Father woke Him morning by morning and opened His ear to hear His voice. Then we observe in the Gospels the way He lived His life from morning to night — where He went, those He saw, those He prayed for, those He related to — how He went about His daily life. He always did the things that pleased the Father. His intimacy with the Father was the factor that supplied the ability to live a life compatible with the Father.

By observing the Lord's life of intimacy and compatibility with the Father, we discover the nature of the life that is now dwelling in us. It is a life that thrives on intimacy with the Father (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15). It is a life that always desires to prove, by testing, what is well pleasing to the Lord (cf. Eph. 5:10). It is a life that knows compatibility with the Father's life-voice in all the details of daily life (Eph. 4:20-21). Now this life is living in us. Hallelujah!

May the Lord grant to us multiplied grace in our spirit, so that the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit would be our daily

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Intimacy and Compatibility — Pages 1-4
- New York Meetings — Page 4

Ministry of the Word, Inc.

P.O. Box 1077
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Moses Lake, WA
Permit No. 53

portion (2 Cor. 13:14). As we inwardly merge with the intimacy in the Triune God, we will not only abide in His love, but we will also develop a finer and more delicate sensitivity to the consciousness of life within us. It is by the love of God and the grace of Christ flowing in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that we can be a person who is compatible with the Lord's life and voice.

Compatibility with the Lord's Life

As regenerated believers we have Another life in us that has another feeling and another consciousness. As we experience His life, we discover different kinds of responses within us that are according to His life. These responses tell us how to remain compatible.

If we do not remain compatible with the Lord's life in any area of our living, we will sense an inward awkwardness and lack. For example, in Colossians 3:15 Paul says, "And let the peace of [Christ] rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." If I do not let the peace of Christ make the decision in my heart when I am tempted to engage in argumentative talk, at that moment, I am not compatible with the feeling or registration of the Lord's life within me. As a result of not remaining compatible, we feel the effects within ourselves. We may sense that we are at odds with the Lord. Even *we* do not feel quite normal in our demeanor or inward posture.

On those occasions the Lord is not speaking to us with a loudspeaker out of the heavens; rather, He manifests His voice to us by the feeling or registration of His life. The Lord feels a certain way within us, producing either the sense of "life and peace," which tells us that we are compatible with His life, or a sense of "death," which tells us that something in our talking, our attitude, or our behavior does not match the nature of His life within. Romans 8:6 says, "The mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace" (ASV). In our experience the mind of the flesh is the consciousness of death, and the mind of the Spirit is the consciousness of life and peace. Of course, the more we drink of the Lord as the Spirit day by day, the richer and deeper will be our fellowship with Him, and the richer and deeper will be our sensitivity to the consciousness of His

life. This means we will be one of His sheep that are compatible with His life-voice (John 10:27).

The meaning of compatibility

Being compatible with the Lord's voice and life simply means being agreeable with Him on His terms. It means always being harmonious with His registrations of life and peace within us in our daily life. It is by living compatibly with Him that we are spontaneously transformed into His image. So, not only do we enjoy Him in a general way; but as we enjoy Him we become rich in the consciousness of that life. We learn to specifically recognize His inner approval or disapproval in our walk. In other words, we seek to make that life happy and satisfied all day long. Whenever that life is not happy and satisfied, we quickly care for it to make it happy again.

As a believer I may know doctrinally that there is "no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). Yet why do I still feel condemned? Why do I feel "out of sorts" within? If I am not under the law but under grace, then why do I experience discomfort and awkwardness within when I take a certain course of action? These kinds of questions have troubled many believers for years. The answer to these questions is quite simple. Yes, we are positionally "in Christ," and therefore we are justified persons and there is no condemnation. Yet whenever we do things that are not in harmony with the Lord's life, *we feel* the responses and reactions of Christ within our being, because He is, in fact, "*our life*" (Col. 3:4). This is the significance of the phrase in Romans 5:18, "justification of life." It means a justification that issues, or results, in a life-consciousness within us.

God's salvation over us includes not only justification; but also it includes regeneration. Justification refers to our secure standing before God based upon the blood of Christ. Regeneration refers to the life of God that we have received into our spirit making us one spirit with the Lord. Justification is positional, whereas regeneration is dispositional. Regeneration is a matter of the divine life entering into us and inwardly guiding us throughout our life. Whenever we pursue a course of action that is not compatible with the Lord's life, our regenerated

state causes us to feel bothered. We cannot remain inwardly content, because we are at odds with His life. His life within cannot change its life-consciousness. We are simply incompatible at that point. Our standing has not changed, but our present condition is incompatible. This disturbance of our inward harmony *is* the Lord's voice in us speaking to us to get us back on course with the divine life. He is not condemning us, but rather He is loving us by inwardly steering us back to Himself.

The basis of compatibility

The basis of our being compatible with the Lord's voice is our life-union with Him in spirit. This union is expressed by the Lord's words in John 14:19: "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also." We live because He lives. It's that simple. First Corinthians 6:17 reveals that this union with the Lord is in the realm of our spirit. We are joined to the Lord and are one spirit with Him. This joining is the basis of the Lord's words, "Because I live, you will live also." He lives within us in our spirit, and we live in union with Him. This life-union issues in a life-consciousness. So we can know and experience the very consciousness of the Lord's life within us. It is by this life-consciousness that we learn to be compatible with His life.

This experiential reality is also expressed in John 4:14: "But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life." When the Lord said, "the water that I shall give him *will become in him a fountain of water,*" He was referring to our life-union with Him. When we receive Christ, an "artesian well" is established in the deepest part of our being, in our spirit. When this life-union, or inner well, springs up within us, it produces the consciousness of His life in the many facets of our daily life — from our inner thinking and motives to our outward behavior and deeds. Again, it is this life-consciousness that is the Lord's voice. When we go along with this consciousness, we are being compatible with God.

Ephesians 2:5 says, "even when we were dead in trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ

(by grace you have been saved)." To be dead in offenses means being a person without feeling, having no proper spiritual consciousness. The definition of a dead person is a person without any consciousness. Apart from regeneration there is no basis or ground to be compatible with the Lord. But, when we are born again, we are regenerated with Another life and we are made alive together with Christ. And because we are alive together with Him by a new birth, we possess His life-consciousness within us. It is our being "alive together with Christ" in a life-union that provides the basis for being compatible with the Lord's voice moment by moment.

The anointing and being compatible

Being compatible with the Lord's voice is also described by the apostle John as being taught by the anointing. In 1 John 2:20 and 27 we read,²⁰ "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things..."²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." The word anointing is the verbal form of the noun the Anointed One. *Anointing* in Greek is *chrisma* (χρίσμα) and simply refers to the movement and action of *the Anointed One*, Christ — *Christos* (Χριστός).

John says, "the same anointing teaches you." This means the movement and action of the Lord within us has the ability to communicate to us and teach us. This kind of teaching does not come in the form of plain words written on a page. Rather, it is an inner movement of the Anointed One within us. The anointing abides *in* us. This anointing should not be thought of as an extraordinary gift that a few spiritual people possess. The anointing is simply the movement and inner activity of Christ Himself in all His redeemed and regenerated children.

In our daily experience the anointing teaches us by giving us an inner knowing. This teaching is by the life movement and consciousness within us. It is a different kind of teaching from the Old Testament law of letters written on tablets of stone. The anointing is a kind of teaching that comes out of our fellowship

with the Lord and our inner sensitivity to Him.

Compatibility in negative experiences

We may liken the teaching of the anointing to our being taught in the physical realm. For example, if we walk into a room in which the temperature is one hundred degrees, the presence of heat teaches us to take off our jacket. There is no need to read a sign that says, "Take off your jacket." The presence of heat automatically teaches us to take it off. It is the *presence* of something that teaches, not a teaching by audible words or outward letters of instruction. We can say that the temperature itself teaches us with the voice of a "felt presence." The anointing works in the same way within us. The anointing is the presence of a Person moving within us. Thus, whenever we are taking a certain course of action that is not compatible with the Lord, we sense a bothering or troubling within. We lose our normal inward poise of peace. For instance, you are about to complain to someone because you are right and they are wrong about something they did or did not do. But as you actually launch into your argument, the more you speak, the more there is the presence of "heat." You feel uncomfortable, you feel awkward, you lose your peace, and you yourself sense that what you are saying is not compatible with your insides.

Just as heat teaches you to take off your jacket, so the presence of the anointing teaches you to stop talking in a complaining way. The reason you are unable to keep talking is not because someone is telling you not to talk that way. You cannot talk because *you* have an inward forbidding. You are simply not free and at liberty to speak that way anymore. This kind of experience is the anointing teaching you. The anointing's voice made it clear that your words were not compatible with the Lord. This kind of experience is not an occasion for taking condemning thoughts and accusations about yourself. Rather, it is an occasion for learning to be compatible with the Lord's life in your speaking and attitude.

Compatibility in neutral matters

Learning to be compatible by following the anointing applies not only in negative matters; the anoint-

ing is also operating in our lives in the face of neutral matters where sin and the flesh are not involved. Sometimes we are faced with decisions of guidance related to what we should do or where we should go. The apostle Paul bears testimony to this in his own life in 2 Corinthians 2:12-14: ¹²"Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, ¹³I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia. ¹⁴Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." Paul had an open door to preach the gospel, but in his spirit he did not find the rest to do so. This means *the lack of rest* in his spirit *was* the Lord's voice indicating to him that to preach the gospel in Troas at that juncture was not compatible with the Lord's mind.

Learning to be compatible with the Lord's life, as in Paul's experience of detecting the lack of rest in his spirit, came out of His intimacy with the Lord. Thus, the more our intimacy with the Lord is cultivated, the more we will intuitively sense what in our daily life is compatible, and what is not compatible with Him.*

*This article is taken from the book, *Spending Time with the Lord*, by Bill Freeman and may be ordered for \$15.95 postpaid from Ministry Publications, PO Box 1077, Moses Lake, WA 98837 or call (800) 573-4105 / (509) 762-0400 / E-mail: ministry@thechristian.org

New York Meetings with Bill Freeman

— Sept. 25, 2004 — Brooklyn

— Oct. 1—3, 2004 — Manhattan

Call for details: (800) 573-4105 / (509) 762-0400

the **Christian**

the Christian is a *periodic* publication of **Ministry of the Word, Inc.** This paper is for the spreading of the truth of God's Word to all of God's children. Past issues may be accessed on the Web site listed below.

A suggested donation for *the Christian* is \$10.00 per year. Additional donations to further the publication of this paper are much appreciated and are tax-deductible. Checks may be made out to **Ministry of the Word, Inc.**, P.O. Box 1077, Moses Lake, WA 98837 — USA.

Ministry of the Word: (509) 762-0400/(800) 573-4105

Fax: (509) 762-0401

E-Mail: ministry@thechristian.org

Web Site: <http://www.thechristian.org>