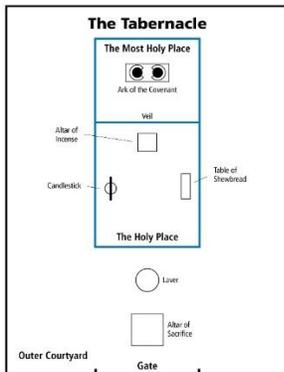




In the Old Covenant God made with the Jews, the Holy Spirit of God dwelled with the Jews in the temple in Jerusalem. The temple was the place God designated in His law to meet with Jews.



God designed the temple to have three parts.



The Holy of Holies was the hot spot of God's presence on earth. It was the most sacred place on earth.

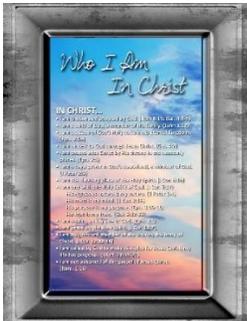


There were times on mount Sinai, in the tabernacle of Moses in the Wilderness, and in the temple of Solomon in Jerusalem that God manifested His presence with fire.



In the new covenant, the followers of Jesus are the hot spot of God's presence on earth. The Holy Spirit came with fire. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

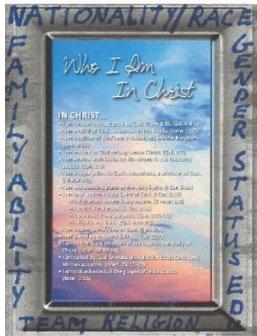
This is the gospel of Jesus Christ!



When we receive Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We are born again of the Spirit of God. We are the children of God. We are a new creation in Christ. We are one with the Spirit of Christ. We are partakers of His divine nature. We are the saints of God. We are the royal ambassadors of God.

As the church of Jesus Christ, instead of defining ourselves by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we tend to define who we are by our flesh.

We call the flesh our frame!



1. Nationality
2. Race/Color of skin
3. Gender/Sexuality
4. Family
5. Status
 - Positions we hold
 - Possessions
 - Accomplishments/Recognitions
 - Social Status
 - a. Wealth
 - b. Appearance
 - c. Married or single
 - d. Where we live
 - e. Car we drive
6. Ability
 - Intelligence
 - Sports
 - Musician
7. Education
 - Degrees
 - Type of degree
 - School we attended
 - The suffix by our name
8. Team
9. Religion

The apostle Paul was adamant with the church of Jesus Christ that they no longer define who they were by what was in their frame.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Galatians 3:26-29

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
NKJV

Colossians 3:9-11

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

NKJV

Why was Paul so adamant about this?

- Paul knew that the church would not experience the power of the Holy Spirit unless they believed the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Paul knew that the church would be divided unless they believed the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Paul knew that the church would be defeated unless they believed the gospel of Jesus Christ.

He knew the church would never become what Jesus wanted it to become if the people of the church defined themselves by what was in their frame rather than defining themselves by who they were in Christ, in the Spirit.

When the members of the church were defining themselves by what was in their frame, this is what Paul saw in those churches.

- Paul would see the members of the church boasting in what was in their frame

1 Cor 3:21-23

21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:

22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come — all are yours.

23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

NKJV

Here is what Paul said the church should boast in.

Galatians 6:14-15

14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

NKJV

The word boast means to find your glory. Where do you find your glory?



Paul only found his glory in Christ

Philippians 3:1-8

3 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

NKJV

You can tell what you are using to define you by what you boast about!

- Paul would see the members of the church depressed over their failures in their frame.

8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed —
10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
NKJV

Gal 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
NKJV

1 Cor 15:9-10

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
NKJV

He knew that the only way to overcome depression because of his failures and the failures in his frame was to define himself by who He was in Christ.

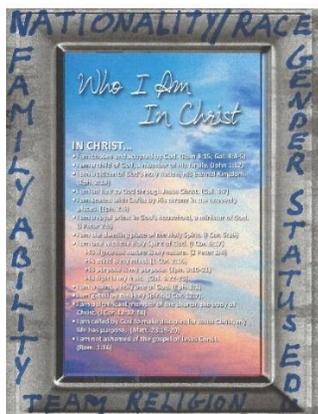
In Christ who he was in the past was dead, who he was in the present was priceless, and who he was in the future was secure.

You can tell what you are using to define you by what makes you depressed!

- Paul would see the members of the church having a wrong view of the value of other people.

2 Corinthians 5:16

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh.



The people in this world are filled with hate for one another. Since the fall it has always been that way and it will always be that way. New laws that protect people from being hated will never change the hearts of mankind.

The Jews have experienced that hatred more than any other nationality of people in world history.

More Jews have been enslaved than any other nationality of people in world history.

At one time their whole national population of several million Jews was enslaved to Egyptians. Later their whole national population was enslaved to the Babylonians. The whole national population was also enslaved to the Romans.

More Jews have been discriminated against than any other nationality of people in world history.

More Jews have been murdered than any other nationality of people in world history.

Hatred for Jews is so much a part of world history that it even has a name. It is called Antisemitism. Antisemitism means hatred of Jews. People that are antisemitic view the Jews as a weak, dangerous, and inferior race that do not deserve the same rights as other races of people.

The Jews are not innocent of hatred for people of other nationalities. Instances of their hatred for certain people groups is well documented. At times their hatred was a reaction to other races they felt were inferior due to their pagan religious beliefs and heathen practices. At times their hatred of a race was a reaction to their oppressors. At other times their hatred was a reaction to a race of people that possessed the land that God had promised them. One of the most well-known instances of this hatred is found in the bible during the time of Christ. A people group known as the Samaritans lived in Palestine with the Jews. The Jews hated the Samaritans so much that they would avoid traveling through the land that the Samaritans occupied.

Hatred can be caused by an offense that creates resentment in us. Some veterans hate illegal immigrants because they feel that they are being treated better by our government than they are being treated. When you are offended the answer to hatred is to forgive and trust God.



Hatred is also caused by defining yourself and others by what is in the frame. When you define yourself by what is in your frame, it not only impacts how you view yourself, but it impacts how you view others.

Your view of others will determine how you value them and how you relate to them.

Paul said that because of the gospel of Jesus Christ we should no longer define anyone by their flesh; by what is in their frame.

Paul publicly rebuked the apostle Peter for defining himself by what was in his frame when he visited the church at Antioch.

What I should see in my brothers and sisters in Christ is who they are in Christ! (2 Cor. 5:16)

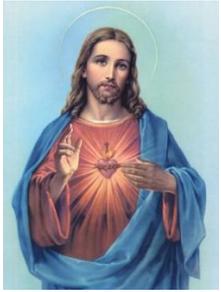
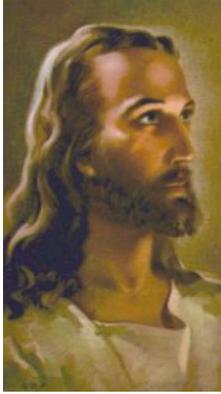
What I should see in all people that are without Christ is a sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36) I should also see what they could become if they would receive the gospel of Jesus Christ!

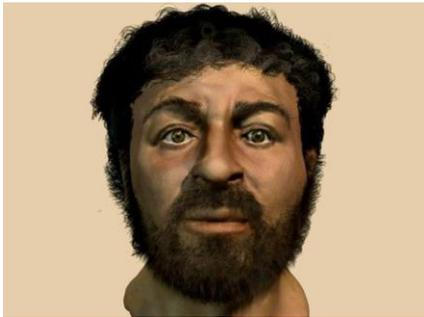
Rejecting the frame as to how we define ourselves and other people and defining others the way Jesus commands us to view them is the solution to hatred.

- It is the solution to racism.
- It is the solution to marriage problems.
- It is the solution to family conflicts.
- It is the solution to church conflicts.

You can tell what you are using to define you by how you view others!

What is your view of the frame that Jesus lived in?





Here is a picture of a reconstruction of a skull of man that lived in Galilee about the time Jesus lived in Galilee.

Jesus most likely had brown eyes, dark brown to black hair and olive-brown skin. He may have stood about 5-ft.-5-in. (166 cm) tall, the average man's height at the time.



The truth is the frame was so insignificant to Jesus that he never stopped to have his portrait done or a bust done of himself.

