

The Claustrophobia of Divine Nature

Colossians 3:9-16

“claustrophobia”

- abnormal dread of being in confined spaces
- Luke 12:50: straitened, squeezed, confined
- *The more Christ-like you become, the more claustrophobic you'll feel in your body!*

The Fullness of Divine Nature

- “now in flesh appearing”: Christmas theme
- Philippians 2:5-8:
 - Step1: emptied
 - Step2: filled, by remaining empty of Self
- Colossians 1:19, 2:9

The Culmination of Filling

- Death on the cross was only the final death
- *The only ones who never have to fear death are those who have experienced it continually throughout their life.*
- Matthew 27:62-66: Even a massive stone and seal couldn't contain that fullness

Your Old Man

- Colossians 3:9-11
- Your Old Man = Your Old Self
(selfish way of living – only me and mine)
- Put to death through repentance and baptism
- Your New Man = Christ

Inward Motives

- Colossians 3:12
- **compassion**
- **kindness**
- **humility**
- **gentleness**
- **patience**

Outward Actions

- Colossians 3:13
- **bearing with**: *not “putting up with”, but getting under someone’s burden with them*
- **forgiving**: exactly as God forgave you

Love – The Perfect bond of Unity

- Colossians 3:14
- other bonds of unity: will not last
- the perfect bond of unity: will last forever

Peace – The Referee of Your Heart

- Colossians 3:15 AMP:
- *‘Let the peace which comes from Christ act as umpire continually in your hearts...*
- *‘... deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state to which as members of Christ's one body you were also called to live.*
- *‘... [Instead] be thankful, giving praise to God always.’*

A Home for the Word of Christ

- Colossians 3:16 AMP
- *‘Let the word spoken by Christ have its home in your hearts and minds in all its **richness**...’*
- *‘... as you teach, admonish, and train one another in all wisdom in spiritual things, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, making melody to God with His grace in your hearts.’*

The Final Explosion

- During our lives Divine Nature just leaks out wherever we go, whomever we meet, until...
- Matthew 28:2: Like Christ's resurrection
- Colossians 3:4: Revealed with Him in glory