

Important Terms for Study:

- **Abide** (*meno*) is “to stay, stand fast, abide, in battle... to stay at home, stay where one is, not stir...to stay, tarry... to abide by an opinion, conviction, etc.,” (LS 498).
- **Dwell** (*katoikeo*) = “to dwell in... to inhabit, to be administered, governed” (LS 423).
- **Godhead** (*theios*) = “divinity, deity” (Moulton 193). “The essential and divine nature of God” (AHD 565).
- **Nature** = “the essential characteristics and qualities of a person or thing” (AHD 832).

Indwelling of the Godhead

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my words: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s who sent me”

John 14:23-24
Cf. II Pet. 1:4

The Bible tells us that the Godhead dwells within the Christian:

- God dwells in the Christian (I Jn. 4:12-16).
- The Father dwells within the Christian (Jn. 14:23).
- Jesus dwells in the Christian (Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27).
- The Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian (Rom. 8:9-11; II Tim. 1:13-14).

Premise of this Study:

To have the godhead dwelling within the Christian is to be governed by the will of God. When I am governed by God’s will I naturally take on the divine characteristics of God.

Consider these divine character traits of God that become a part of my life when I, by faith, obey God’s will and allow His will to Govern my life:

- God is Holy (Lev. 11:44; I Pet. 1:15-16)
- Perfect (Matt. 5:48)
- Patient (II Pet. 3:9),
- Merciful (Deut. 4:31)
- Comforting (II Cor. 1:3).
- God is love (I Jn. 4:8)
- God is peace (I Cor. 14:33).
- God is compassionate (Matt. 14:14).
- God hates sin (I Jn. 1:5; Rom. 12:9).
- God represents truth (Jn. 15:26) and the devil represents lies (Jn. 8:44).

Let us examine how the Godhead dwells within the Christian:

- Deity and His essential characteristics dwell within the Christian through the gospel message (Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:23-29).
- When I walk by God’s divine standards I take on the divine nature of the godhead (Rom. 8:9-10; I Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:1; 3:9).
- When one looked upon Jesus they actually saw the Father due to their united stand in truth (cf. Jn. 14:7-9). Likewise, when a Christian looks in the mirror they see the reflection of the godhead because we have taken upon us the divine nature (II Pet. 1:4) having received the word of truth (II Cor. 3:18). Some say, “you are what you eat.” The same is true of the gospel message. If I eat the gospel message it become a part of who and what I am (cf. Jn. 6:47-51).
- Not only does the godhead dwell in the Christian who has received truth but Christians dwell within each other; i.e., they share in the divine nature (cf. Jn. 17:20-21; I Cor. 5:3).
- Those who have the indwelling of the godhead actually have God working within them (Phil. 2:13) through the word of God (I Thess. 2:13) unto salvation (Rom. 1:16).
- When “in the Holy Spirit” we can proclaim “abba Father” (Rom. 8:15) and “Jesus is Lord” (I Cor. 12:3). Without the word of God we could not be in the godhead and neither would we have the knowledge to make such proclamations.
- To have the spirit of God dwelling within (I Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20) is equated to being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18-19) which is defined as receiving the word of Christ (Col. 3:16; I Jn. 2:5-6).
- My faith determines whether God dwells within me (i.e., I exhibit divine characteristics that are revealed through truth) (cf. Eph. 3:17).