

How Does Christ Continue to Live in You?

Because you are dead in your sin (Eph. 2:1), you cannot open your heart to Jesus. Instead, Christ opens the door of your heart (Acts 16:14) to live in you and to bring you out of darkness to His marvelous light (Col. 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9). He doesn't come only once. On the contrary, He comes regularly into your heart to "dine with you" (Rev. 3:20). He dines with you both in His Word and also in His Sacrament of the Holy Supper.

CHURCH BODY	TEACHING ON THE LORD'S SUPPER	WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
LUTHERAN	Lutherans teach that "in the Lord's Supper the body and blood of Christ are truly and substantially present and are truly offered with those things that are seen, bread and wine. We are talking about the presence of the living Christ " (<i>Apology of the Augsburg Confession</i> , X:4). "Believers receive [this Supper] as a certain pledge and assurance that their sins are truly forgiven, that Christ dwells and is efficacious in them " (<i>Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration</i> , VII:63).	According to this Scriptural teaching, you do not need to labor and toil to keep Jesus living in you. Instead, He dwells in you and strengthens you in faith and life through His body and blood in Holy Communion. You can be certain that " Christ is in you " (Rom. 8:10) when you "eat this bread and drink the cup" (1 Cor. 11:26)! "So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy" (Rom. 9:16). "It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).
BAPTIST	"The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming" (<i>Baptist Faith and Message</i> , #VII). In other words, Baptists deny that Christ comes into you bodily when He says, "This is My body . . . This is My blood" (Matt. 26:26, 28).	If the Lord's Supper is only "a symbolic act," then Christ is not really present in the bread and wine. If He is not present in the bread and wine, He is not there to live in you and sustain you in the Christian faith and life. Yet, St. Paul says, "Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ ?" (1 Cor. 10:16).
ROMAN CATHOLIC	The Roman Catholic Church refers to the Lord's Supper as "Holy Communion, because by this sacrament we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in His Body and Blood to form a single body" (<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> , #1331).	This Roman Catholic claim turns the Lord's Supper into a human work in which you must unite yourself to Christ. Yet, when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He clearly said, "I am among you as the one who serves" (Lk. 22:27), and thus He unites Himself to you to live in you (Gal. 2:20).
REFORMED CALVINIST	The Reformed say that the body and blood of Christ are "not corporeally or carnally in, with, or under the bread and wine" (<i>Westminster Confession</i> , Ch. XXIX, 7), because, as their Heidelberg Catechism says, "Christ is in heaven and we [are] on earth" (Question 76). Thus, they put logic above God's Word.	The Reformed lock Christ up in heaven and claim that He cannot be on earth. However, Scripture says that when you eat the bread and drink from the cup of the Lord's Supper, you share in the body and blood of Jesus (1 Corinthians 10:16) here on earth , and He lives in you even here on earth (Gal. 2:20).

"I WILL COME IN TO HIM,
AND WILL DINE WITH HIM,
AND HE WITH ME"

REVELATION 3:20