

**Christ Community Covenant Church**  
**Colossians 2:6 - Rooted and built up in Him!**  
**Pastor Dave Scherrer - August 2, 2015**

Our CHIC kids, in their own way, have been talking about being rooted in Christ, finding themselves abiding in Christ in new and powerful and refreshing ways in the Spirit.

There is an important term that the kids used at CHIC

**Colossians 2:6**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

*“Rooted and built up in Christ”* is a mixed metaphor. Paul mixes an agricultural metaphor with a construction metaphor. When you are certain of God’s love for you then you are *rooted* like a plant. You can begin to grow and flourish and bear fruit. When you are certain of God’s love for you, it is like the foundation of a building. The word translated *grounded* is used for the foundation of a house. You are *established* on the foundation of God’s love and the building can then be constructed.

But how do we avoid a frantic, subjective search of our own hearts to see if we really are *rooted* and *grounded* in God’s love for us? We all know how fickle our hearts are. No matter what experience of Christ’s love we have experienced in the past, the moments will come when we doubt everything and are tempted to despair that he has ever really loved us or that he will continue to love us, especially when we’re really blown it! Perhaps even as you are reading this, you are thinking *“Have I really experienced this? Can I be sure that Jesus loves me?”*

**What does it mean to be rooted and grounded in Christ?**

A Wild Fig tree at Echo Caves, South Africa has roots reaching 400 feet making it the deepest a tree’s roots have penetrated. The point however is not how deep your roots are but rather determining *what is the source of life the roots are drawing life from*. Listen to these words from the prophet Jeremiah:

**Jeremiah 17:7-8**

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.*

This is Colorado and this is Israel. Trees don’t grow but along the water sources. The first thing about being rooted is to make sure that you are drawing from the true source. It means first receiving Christ (v6a) and releasing your heart to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 11:16, 18 - “. . . and if the root be holy, the branches are too . . . Remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you”**

The second first thing about being rooted and grounded in Christ is to be about **the roots** . not so much the fruits .

**‘Roots’ not ‘Fruits’**

When we hear the Word it is very important that it goes deep into our hearts and becomes rooted in our lives. The depth of the planting is based on the openness of our heart. If our heart is not fully open, then there is only a shallow planting, which is easily rooted out by the enemy, Satan (**Matthew 13:19**).

If our roots in God are strong and healthy our outward lives will automatically show the life and nature of Christ to those around us.

Remember how I asked the kids what was the most important part of the tree? Leaves, fruit, trunk, you can't have a tree without them but when it comes to our lives as spiritual trees - our tendency is to spend most of the time looking at the fruit. Looking at what is above the ground so to speak. But it is the roots that make all the difference and more specifically, it is the good water . **the living water** . that makes all the difference.

We have a difficult time knowing what exactly what good fruit is in the eyes of God. Sometimes we get all hung up comparing ourselves to others thinking they are a better Christian than I am and feeling worth . less and that is a loser's game. We are to be obedient . to abide - and the fruit will take care of itself.

### Discussion Questions:

What was your impression of the CHIC kids' testimony?

A couple of them said they saw the Kingdom of God in ways that they had never seen before.

What does the term Kingdom of God mean to you?

A couple of the teens spoke of having *goose bumps* during the service and attributed that to the Holy Spirit. Has this ever happened to you, how so? Do you think that goose bumps are always a good test of whether something is of the Holy Spirit? Why so, why not?

What are the tests for discerning whether something is the voice or the action of the Holy Spirit?

Dave quoted Colossians 2:6

#### **Colossians 2:6**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

What does it mean to you to receive Christ?

There are three different word pictures to this verse (walking in Him, rooted in Him, built up in Him). How do these differ in your mind?

How do you know if you are established in the faith?

How do you know if you are abounding in thanksgiving? Are you?!?!

Can we improve our walk in Christ, our rootedness in Christ, our foundation in Christ by our actions and discipline or is that just up to Jesus and the Holy Spirit to improve us?

What one thing can you do this week to increase your awareness of your walk in Christ?