



Arizona Discipleship Tool



WHO SITS ON THE THRONE?

Someone said, "The Christian life is not difficult -- it is impossible." Only one person has ever lived the Christian life, and that was Jesus Christ. Today He desires to go on living His life through Christians whom He indwells. J.B. Phillips once said: "The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these letters [the New Testament epistles] is that to us it is primarily a performance, while to them it was a real experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion to a code, or at best a rule of heart and life. To those men it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ "living" in them."

Before His death, Christ told His disciples that it was best for Him to leave them so that the Spirit of God might come to dwell in each of them (John 14:16-20, 16:7). In other words, Christ was physically departing from His disciples so that He might always be present spiritually within each of them.

Today when a person places his faith in Christ, Christ comes to dwell within him by means of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). His purpose for dwelling in us is that He might live His life through us. Many Christians are trying to operate on their own finite ability instead of Christ's infinite power.

Below we will examine the three types of persons in the world today: the non-Christian (natural man), the spiritual Christian, and the worldly Christian.

Non-Christian

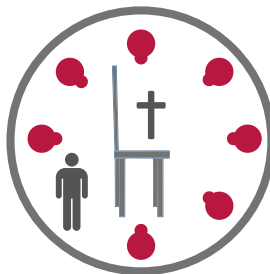
Self-Directed Life



Self is on the throne.
Christ is outside the life.
Interests are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration.

Spiritual Christian

Christ-Directed Life



Life is Christ-centered
Self has been dethroned
Interests are still present but point back to Christ, leading to hope, joy and peace.

Worldly Christian

Self-Directed Life



Self is on the throne.
Christ is dethroned.
Interests reveal a loss of love for God, His plans, and His ways; legalism reigns.

Questions to Consider:

Which picture most accurately displays your life? Why do you think that?

Which picture displays what you desire your life to look like? Why?

What action will you take to move towards the picture you desire?