



Diagram: Galatians 2:20

with Explanation

By
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Ephesians3seven 2007



Diagram: Galatians 2:20 Explanation*

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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THE RELATIONAL DIAGRAM OF THE BELIEVER'S "POSITION" AND "PRACTICE" FROM GALATIANS 2:20:

Understanding the relationship between one's "position" and "practice," as a believer, is crucial in the life of a Christian. Since the Bible itself emphasizes this difference, every believer should take time to do serious study on this Bible teaching. Further, a false understanding and belief concerning "position" and "practice" may in fact indicate that a redemptive relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ does not exist.

The "position" of a believer is defined as the state in which the believer *continuously* exists, where the "practice" of the believer is defined as the state in which the believer *continually* exists. Since the Christian, upon true repentance of their sins and true faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, is redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and renewed by the Spirit of God, they are eternally secure and holy in God's sight. They are justified in God's eyes because of Christ – Who is their substitute – for eternal life in Heaven and they have taken upon them the righteousness of Christ upon the very moment of their conversion to Christ.

A sincere believer, though "positionally" perfect in God's sight, because of Christ, must yield to the Spirit of God to live for Christ. Because of the old nature, which won't totally done away until they meet Christ face to face – when we see Him we shall be like Him (**1 John 3:2**) – the child of God's "practice" may not always be righteous and holy. The babe in Christ is indeed complete in Him from their new birth (**Colossians 2:10**) and with their new nature they have *more* than simply *potential* to live for Christ (they are not lacking in anything to do so), however, they will struggle at times with their old nature, how to yield to the Holy Spirit and how to discern God's will in every matter of their life. This comes with time, as they study God's Word, as they pray and as they are edified in the body of Christ – the local church.

There is, however, another element to the "practice" that is frequently overlooked. Often, the negative aspect of the "practice" is emphasized in preaching and teaching. In other words, the holy "position" and the unholy "practice" are what are taught. However,

there is a holy "practice" that is indeed an outworking of the holy "position" that we have in Christ as believers. **Galatians 2:20** plainly reveals this to us.

Galatians 2:20 is a powerful verse within a powerful book of the Bible. Within this one verse, the "position" and "practice" of the believer are aptly defined. Further, these two aspects are shown to have a foundation: "who loved me, and gave himself for me." Christ, Who loved us and Who gave His life sacrificially on the cross for us, truly is the foundation to the holy "position" and "practice" of the believer.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live," begins the verse. What an amazing statement from God's Holy Word! Crucified, yet alive! When the believer trusts in Jesus Christ and the Gospel, how that He died on the cross, shedding His precious blood for the forgiveness of sins, was buried and bodily rose from the grave three days and three nights later, they have decided to cling to Christ and all that He is. They recon themselves – that is, their old nature – as dead unto sin, yet alive unto God through Jesus Christ the Lord! (**Romans 6:11**) Alive to live by Him, through Him and unto Him for His glory!

These truths are built *upon* the next statement, "yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God." Again, we see the "position" and "practice" defined! "Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" exemplifies the Christian's "positional" life – a "position" that we could not author nor could we maintain apart from His finished work on the cross and the redemption of His children. And, what *works out from* this is the "practice" of the believer – "and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God" – proof that the text speaks about a contrast in what we have in Christ (our "position") and the practical outworking of what we have in Him (our "practice" – to whatever degree the believer yields to the Spirit of God).

Finally, again, we see our blessed foundation to our "position" and "practice" – the love of Christ and His sacrifice – "who loved me, and gave himself for me." Our "position" and "practice," as believers in Christ, is not only possible because of the Gospel (the death, burial and resurrection), but indeed because of His love – a personal love – for "me," the child of God. How immeasurable is His love! We have, as believers, this "position" in Him and the "practical" outworking of that because of His love for us!

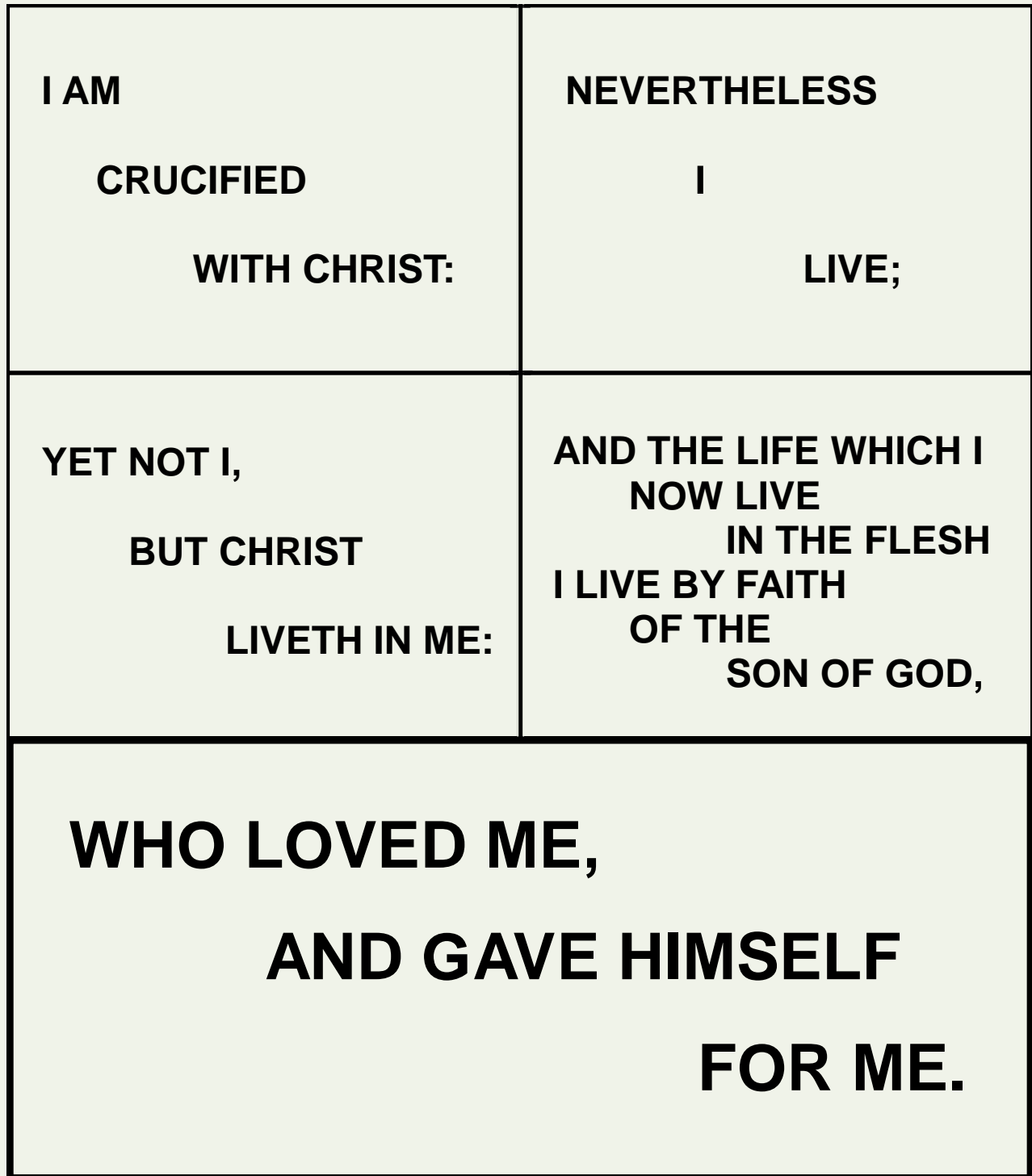
The Gospel *is* "the power of God" (**Romans 1:16**), unto salvation. This power is therefore, according to **Galatians 2:20**, also part of the foundation to the believers "position" and "practice" – a vital truth! The believer in Christ lacks nothing in their "position" and the holy "practice" which works out from their "position" in Christ! Praise God! Amen!

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↓↓↓ POSITION ↓↓↓

↓↓↓ PRACTICE ↓↓↓



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If you have any questions, concerning this diagram, e-mail us at the following address: info@ephesians3seven.com

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