

It Can Happen  
To You!

Dr. John Tolson

A problem  
well-defined is a  
problem half solved!

# The Christian Life

1. The Life of Christ
  - The Distinctive
2. Reproduced in the Believer
  - The Sphere
3. By the Power of the Holy Spirit
  - The Dynamic
4. In obedient response to the Word of God
  - The means

# The Life of Christ

## The Distinctive

Christianity is:

NOT a religion

--- but a Revelation

Religion is defined as:

“Man’s attempt to find God.”

Revelation is the search of God for man.

Christianity is:

NOT a proposition about a person...

but a personal relationship

# Conclusion

The Christian life is not what  
I do for God...

But what God does through  
me.

The Christian life  
is not difficult.

It is impossible!

# The Life of Christ

Jesus was unique in His:

## 1. Life

- Perfect
- Powerful

## 2. Death

## 3. Resurrection

# The Christian Life

## 1. The Life of Christ

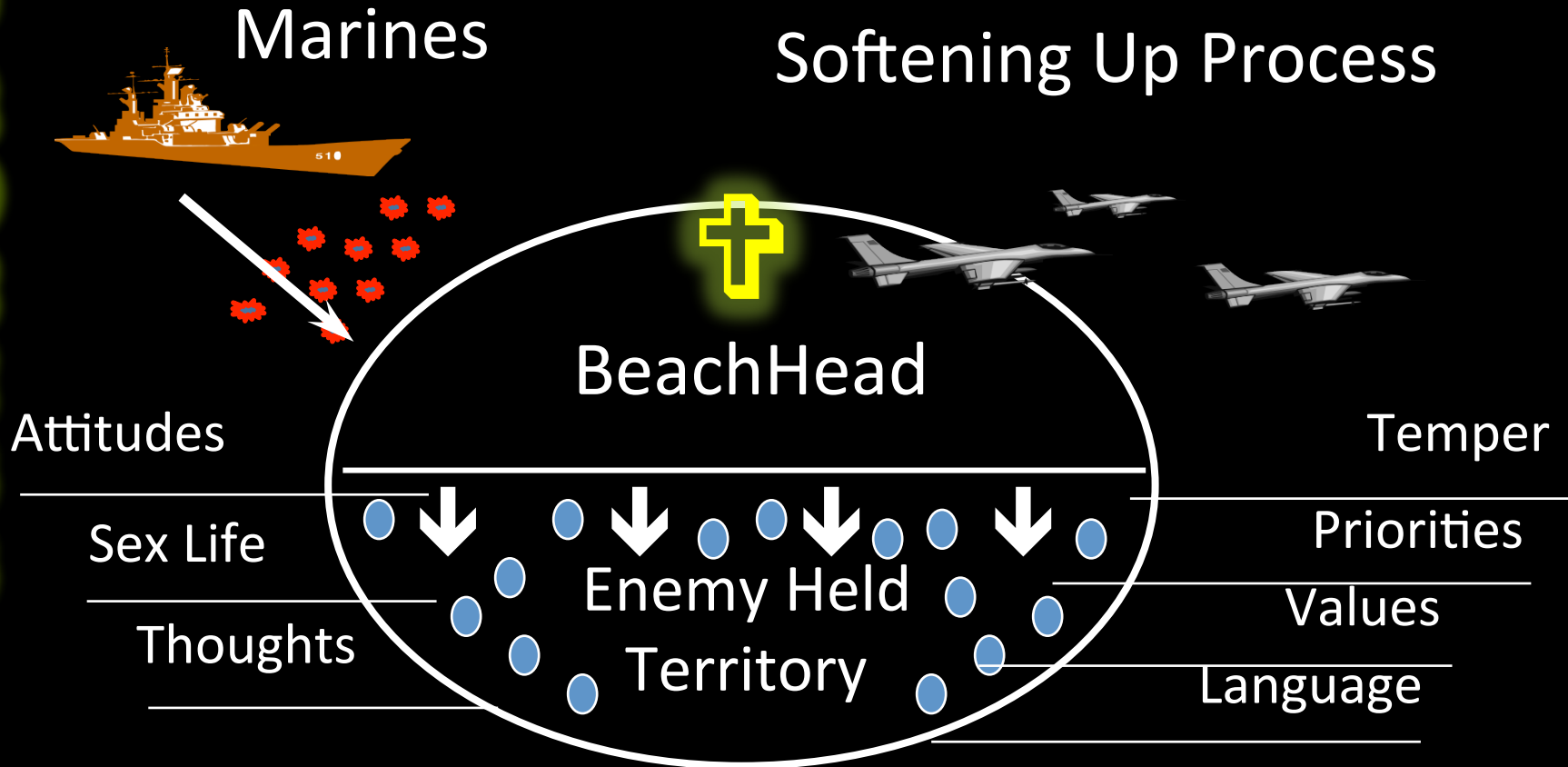
- The Distinctive

## 2. Reproduced in the Believer

- The Sphere



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**GROWING**

Position Established:

- By personal invitation
- Permanent
- Benefits = accepted (justified) , forgiven, and empowered

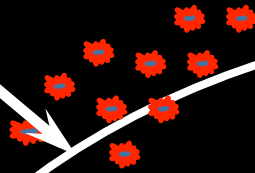
**Condition still *stinks***  
**Enemy Held Territory: Romans 7**

You can be a  
Christian and still  
have RATS in  
your attic!

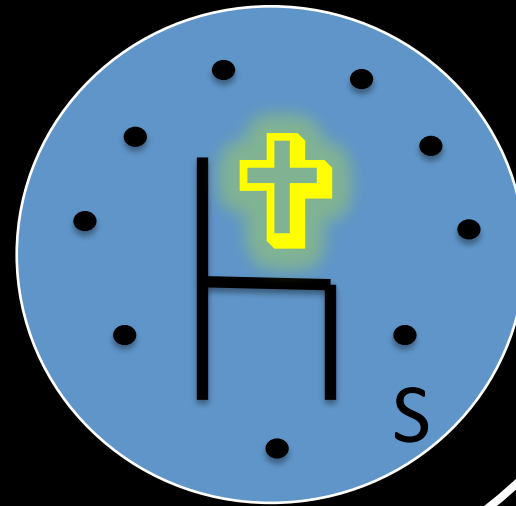
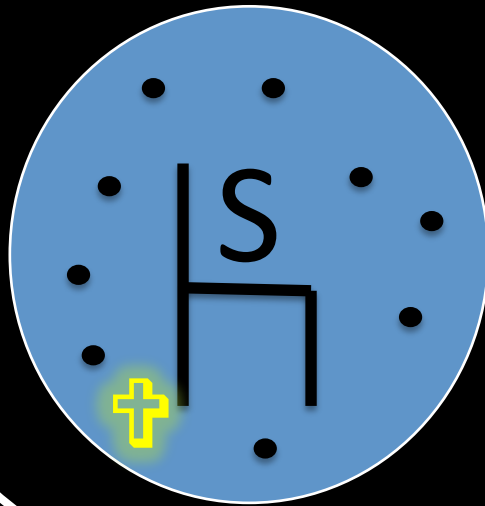


Marines

Softening Up Process



BeachHead



Enemy Held Territory

A. How does the process of Jesus reproducing Himself in you begin?

1. Develop (Grow)

- 2 Peter 3:18 – But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- (Deal with constraints)

2. Goal

- Romans 8:29 – “Become like Jesus!”

# How much like Jesus are you?

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

# How much like Jesus are you?

Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:21

# How much like Jesus are you?

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world cause by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:4

# How much like Jesus are you?

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2



To be conformed to the  
image of Christ means  
you have to break with  
your culture.

B. How does God reproduce Himself in you?

1. Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

God delivers me from myself so that I might be free to become like Him.

B. How does God reproduce Himself in you?

2. Philippians 1:12 – Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

God uses all of life to reproduce Himself in you.

Adversity means advance.

- It takes time!
- Followers of Jesus are not immune from problems.

—James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- What happens when I fail?

- 1 John 1:9

- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



We are men en route

What is there in your  
life that you cannot  
explain on any other  
basis than the  
supernatural?

3. Colossians 1:27-28  
v. 27 “Christ in you”

You are either  
in Christ or out  
of Christ



### 3. Colossians 1:27-28

v. 28 “Mature in Christ”

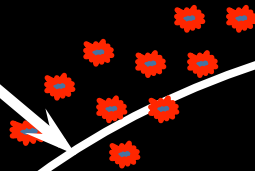
How will you know if:

- You are in Christ?
- You are maturing?

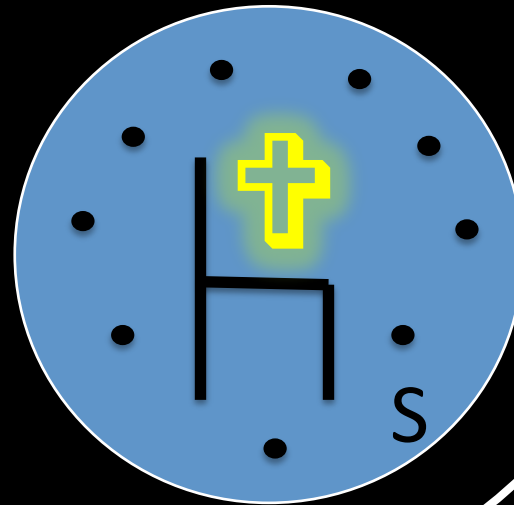
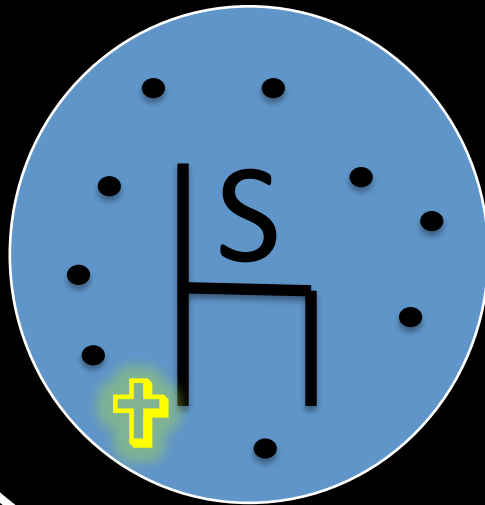
Are you wrapped up  
in little ole you or are  
you becoming Christ-  
like and giving  
yourself away?

Marines

Softening Up Process



BeachHead



Enemy Held Territory