

Dear Friend of **Abiding Above**,

January 2013

The holidays are now behind us and we all look forward to what God has in store for us in 2013. It is my sincere prayer that this will be our best year yet. And it is also my prayer for you that God continues to conform you to the image of His dear Son Jesus!

Paul said in **Romans 8:29** – *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son....”*

Do people see the beauty of Jesus in you?

I’m praying that God will cause others to look upon you with favor and that He will bless all that you put your mind and hands to.

I want you to know this, as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as President of Abiding Above Ministries; I have no inclination to compromise what is clear to me, God’s will for His children, and His desire for the local church. I have not, and will not, subscribe to the latest fads and trends displayed in what has become known as the emergent church. Fads and trends are like the fashion of clothes; they change every year.

God’s Holy Word says in **Hebrews 13:8** – *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*

My friend, the church is the body of Christ. This means that we as Christians are *“in Christ”* and *“Christ is in us.”* He never changes and His truth never changes.

Paul said in **Romans 12:2** – *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....”*

**Conformed to this world** – means not to be squeezed into Satan’s mold.

Dear friend, do you feel like you are being forced into a mold of Christianity that frankly makes you feel uncomfortable? It should, and what you feel is both the resistance, and grieving, of the Holy Spirit inside of you. If you are walking in His Spirit, remembering you are in union with Him, when He resists worldliness you resist worldliness, and when He is grieved, you are grieved.

Again, we read what Paul says in **Galatians 5:17** – *“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another ....”*

As individuals, we know what it feels like to struggle with the flesh, and to grieve the Holy Spirit. The turmoil in the church today is the same turmoil we experience as individuals when the flesh wants to have its way. The answer? Surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit.

My friend, we are the instruments of God *to share the gospel with every person, to encourage spiritual growth in every believer by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God*, and we are accomplishing this purpose through the ongoing work of Abiding Above Ministries. We continue to reach many individuals locally and around the world through our daily internet and radio ministry broadcasts. Remember to join *“Abiding Above with Chris Hodges,”* each Monday through Friday @ 4:56pm on WCRV – 640 AM.



**Have you visited our website lately? [www.abidingabove.org](http://www.abidingabove.org).**

It is my prayer that this site will continue to be a blessing and encouragement to you, and that you will take advantage of passing this site along to someone else. Just click the **“Tell A Friend”** link at the top right hand corner of the page, and share us with your friends and family members.

**We Are A Ministry Of Encouragement...**

God continues to work through your faithful prayers and gifts to reach people around the globe and we thank you for helping us do this. As a faith-based domestic and international ministry, we are solely supported by the gifts of God’s people...you. In today’s economy we need you now, more than ever, to help us continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for making this your ministry and serving along with me. I’m praying right now that God blesses you and causes others to look upon you with favor in your family life and your business life.

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris S. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris S. Hodges  
President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3