

10

IN CHRIST

(This lesson is designed to help us understand what God has done for us in Christ Jesus, defines our true identity in Christ and teaches us how to live out our inheritance in Him).

Introduction

We need to understand what God has done for us in Christ Jesus, realize our true identity in Christ, know who we are in Him and be equipped to live the In-Christ Life.

This lesson is a brief summary of a detailed Bible Study covered in the free APC Publication “Who We Are in Christ.”

Understanding Our Union with Christ

We are in Christ

John 15:1-5

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Here, the Lord used the illustration of a vine and its branches to communicate His relationship with His people.

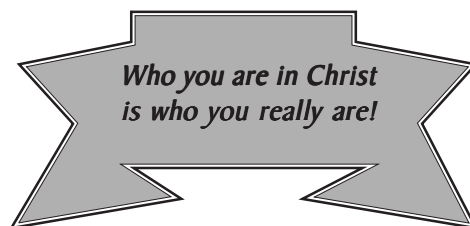


- We are ‘connected’ to Him.
- What’s in Him is in us.
- We are the fruit-bearing part of the Vine—we manifest the Christ-life.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- We became something, which we were not earlier.
- What did not exist has now come into existence.
- God didn’t take the ‘old me’ and put me in Christ. Instead, He made me a new creation and put me in Christ. I became a new creation—something, someone new—when I came into Christ Jesus.



We have a new identity

- We were once sinners, but now in Christ we are saints.
- We were once guilty, but now in Christ we are justified.
- We were once unrighteous, but now in Christ we are the righteousness of God.
- We are no longer what we used to be, spiritually.



This means that we need to change our self-image—the way we think and talk about ourselves. We need to think of ourselves and talk about ourselves the way God sees us in Christ—instead of the way we are used to seeing ourselves, or the way others view us.

How can this truth change your life?

It will change your self-image

Who you are in Christ, is who you really are! Learn to place your self-image and your self-worth not on your achievements, not on what other people say about you, but on the simple fact of who you are in Christ.

It will change the way you relate to God

The way you relate to God, your daily fellowship with God, your entry into the presence of God is not based on your works. It is based on who you are in Christ.

It will change the way you face challenges and difficulties in life

Christ is in you, you are in Him and you are going to win. God and you are the majority.

It will change your lifestyle

It helps you overcome sin in your life.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Sin will no longer have dominion over you. You do not have to be in bondage to sin.

It will change the way you face demons and demonic powers

You can face demons and demonic powers with strong confidence when you know who you are in Christ.



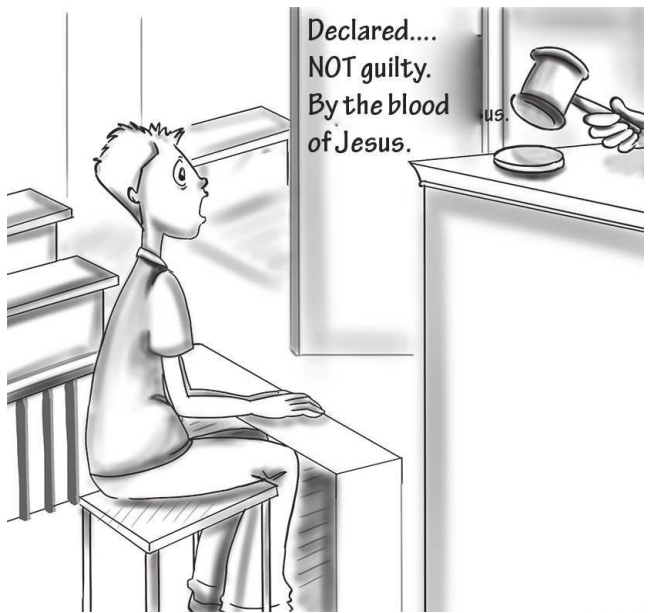
It will change the way you relate to people

When you look at another person, although that person may not be very great in natural terms, if he is in Christ, then he is a brother. You are not relating to him based on his education or qualification. He is a brother in Christ. You have to treat him like that. If that brother has a more dynamic ministry, God bless him, he is your brother in Christ. You are not in competition but in collaboration and are working together. You are one Body in Christ. You do not have to feel insecure. All of us are joined to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- Washed** = made clean.
- Sanctified** = set apart for God and His purposes.
- Justified** = acquitted, declared not guilty, completely forgiven, made innocent, made **just-as-if-I-never-sinned.**



Blessed with Every Blessing



Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

Made Victorious

2 Corinthians 2:14

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.



Reign in Life

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Identified with Christ—Crucified, Buried, Raised, Seated

Because we are in Christ, we have become identified with Him in His crucifixion, burial, resurrection, ascension and position at the right hand of the Father. Our present union with Christ has entitled us to His past achievements.

Our present oneness with Christ has made us so one with Him that we are recognized as having been in Him in His past accomplishments.

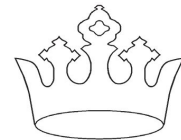
Romans 6:1-7

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Ephesians 2:1-6

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- Crucified with Christ—The body of sin (power/control of sin) was destroyed.
- Buried with Christ—Separated from the past life.
- Made alive from the dead with Christ—Given new life.
- Raised up into the heavens with Christ—Separated from the present age/world.
- Seated with Christ—Positioned to rule and reign.



**Seated with
Christ—Positioned
to RULE and
REIGN.**

(There is a whole lot more in Scripture on Who We Are In Christ. We encourage you to pick up a copy of our free APC Publication "Who We Are In Christ" and study it in depth).

We Must Live Out of Who We Are In Christ

Abide in Him

John 15:4.5

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

When we abide in Him, and He in us, we will walk as Christ walked.

Acknowledge every good thing you have in Him



I really think you're taking the whole walking as Christ thing a litte too literally.

Philemon 1:60

That the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

- Acknowledge every good thing that is in you, in Christ.
- Know your rights and stand your ground.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

2 Corinthians 5:17

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(For further study, please refer to the free APC Publication "Who We Are in Christ")

APPLICATION

1. What does God want me to do with what He has done for me, and given to me in Christ?

2. How do I live out my union with Christ?

3. How do I experience in daily life what God has done for me in Christ?

4. How does being "In Christ:"

- change my self-image

- change the way I relate to God

- change the way I face challenges and difficulties in life

- change my lifestyle

- change the way I face demons and demonic powers

- change the way I relate to people
