

1

UNDERSTANDING OUR UNION WITH CHRIST

1.1. We Are in Christ

John 14:19,20

¹⁹ A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.²⁰ At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

The Lord Jesus foretold that there will come a time when His disciples will receive a revelation about their union with Him. God revealed much of this to the Church through Apostle Paul and others who wrote the New Testament. Throughout the Epistles we see the revelation of who we are in Christ being presented to us.

John 15:1–5

¹ I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ "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.

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.

New *kainos* (Gr.)= something unused, fresh, new in regard to essence, nature and quality.

1.2. How Did We Get in Christ?

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

This verse is full of divine initiative, divine action. God did it all. We didn't earn it; we didn't deserve or merit it. We didn't even plan it. God decided that those who came to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, Heaven's single provision for salvation, would divinely be brought in Christ Jesus. We are in Christ Jesus. This is a present tense reality. It is a spiritual fact.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The creative power of God became operational when God brought us into Christ. And it was by God's creative power that we were brought into this union with Christ.

- 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.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

When we are “born again,” we are born of the Spirit. “Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”” (John 3:5). At the time of our new birth, the Holy Spirit was the One who ‘regenerated’ us—or made us new creatures, and then He took us and ‘immersed’ us into the Body of Christ, i.e., brought us into union with Christ.

1.3. What Does it Mean to Be in Christ?

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

This means that our union with Christ is a spiritual union. Our spirits are united with Him. Hence the effect of our union with Christ will work outwards from our spirit, affecting our soul and body.

A parallel is drawn between the physical union of a man and woman, with our spiritual union with Christ (1 Corinthians 6:17). The union of a man and woman does not mean that either one of them ceases to exist, or that they have somehow lost their individuality. Instead, in its purest form, their union is exemplified in the following ways:

- They bear one name hence they represent each other.
- There is oneness or harmony in their living—in the decisions made, things achieved, and so on.
- There is a mutual sharing of goals, purposes and feelings—what affects one also affects the other.
- There is mutual enrichment—the weakness of one is ‘lost’ in the strength of the other.
- What belongs to one, also belongs to the other—they are coheirs.
- There is deep communion, intimacy and fellowship, not known by anyone from the outside.

Each of these characterizes and defines our union with the Lord Jesus—our being one with Him in spirit.

1.4. The Consequences of Being in Christ

1.4.1. A New Identity

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.

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

And so much more... (We will study these in detail in the forthcoming sections of this manual).

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.

1.5. How Can This Truth Change Your Life?

1.5.1. 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.

1.5.2. It will change the way you relate to God

Your relating 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.

1.5.3. 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.

1.5.4. It will change your lifestyle

It helps you overcome sin in your life. “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (Romans 6:14). Sin will no longer have dominion over you. YOU do not have to be in bondage to sin.

1.5.5. 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.

1.5.6. 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, you are 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.

2

A NEW CREATION

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.

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

The Bible reveals to us that every person who believes in Jesus is in Christ. To be in Christ means to be spiritually one with Him.

If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). What does it mean to be a new creation?

2.1. We Became Something That We Were Not Before

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

It was the creative work of God that put us in Christ. In other words, God released His creative power when He made us new creatures in Christ.

We are a new creation. We became something that we were not before. The word 'creation' means bringing something into existence that did not exist earlier.

Examples

Ephesians 2:1

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

2.2. We Became New Creatures in Our Spirit—Not in Our Mind or Body

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This verse reveals to us that each human being is spirit, soul and body. We are spirits, we have a soul and we live in a body. Our soul includes our mind, emotions, will, and mental capabilities. Our body is the outer shell. The real person inside is a spiritual being. It is in our spirit that we have become a new creation.

Ephesians 4:17–25

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man

which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

We are a new creation in Christ but our minds are not yet renewed. Our minds have to go through a process of change by being renewed to the Word of God. And our body—our flesh has to be kept under control. We are new creations in our spirits but we need to keep our mind and body in subjection to our spirit.

2.3. The New Creation That We Became is in the Likeness of God, the Image of God

Ephesians 4:23, 24

²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

The Bible says that God made man in His own image (Genesis 1:26, 27). God breathed into him His own life. He put something of Himself into man. That was God’s plan—to have a race of people who would be in His own likeness and image. But because of sin, this got corrupted. However, now in Christ, the new man has been made in the likeness and image of God. When we are brought into union with Christ, God’s original intention has been accomplished and restored. Our spirits became a new man.

2.3.1. The implications of our ‘spirit man’ being created in the image of God

- (a) Since we are made in the image of God, it means that our spirit, which has become a new man, now has the life and nature of God. We have the life and nature of God in us.

2 Peter 1:3,4

³As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 John 5:1

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

- (b) Ephesians 4:24 says the characteristics of the new person inside us is righteousness and true holiness. This means that we now have the ability to walk in righteousness and true holiness.

2.4. This New Man Inside Us Must Be Renewed in Knowledge

Colossians 3:9,10

⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

This new man that we are inside is being renewed in knowledge or is growing increasingly in the knowledge of his Creator. Our spirit, which has now become a new creation, needs to continually increase in the knowledge of its Creator.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:13

Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

2.5. Old Things Have Passed Away

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.

Romans 6:6

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.

The 'old man' referred to is our sin nature or the sin that was dwelling in us. This was put to an end so that we are not slaves to sin anymore. We don't have to be subject to sin.

Application

Don't limit your life by what you have been in the past, because in your spirit you have become something that you were not earlier. There is hidden potential, the power of God or the life of God in your spirit. If you allow what God has put in your spirit to dominate your mind and body then the new man inside can be manifested in your daily life.

3

JUSTIFIED AND MADE RIGHTEOUS

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ 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.

We have been washed, sanctified and justified!

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.

3.1. Justified by His Grace

Romans 3:22–26

²² Even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- The righteousness of God—God’s own righteousness has been imparted to all and is on all who believe.
- We have been justified freely by His grace because of the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Titus 3:4–7

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

3.2. Justified Through Faith

Romans 5:1,2

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

We have been justified by faith. We now have peace with God.

Romans 5:9

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 3:25

Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.

Propitiation (Gr.) = mercy seat.

Christ became our “Mercy Seat,” the One through whom we are reconciled to God.

Exodus 25:21,22

²¹ You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. ²²And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

Leviticus 16:14,15

¹⁴ He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. ¹⁵ “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.

Colossians 1:20,22

²⁰ And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.

3.3. Made Righteous by Faith

Romans 3:22

Even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

Philippians 3:8,9

⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.

Application

1. There is now no condemnation.

Romans 8:1,33,34

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

2. You have boldness to enter into God's presence.

Ephesians 2:13,18

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 3:12

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Hebrews 10:19

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus.

3. There is overcoming power available.

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

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.

4. Be in fellowship as you continue walking in righteousness.

1 John 1:7–9

⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4

SANCTIFIED AND MADE HOLY

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ 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.

Hagiazō (Gr.) = sanctify, *hagiasmos* (Gr.) = sanctification.

Sanctified= set apart, consecrated, dedicated, made holy.

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

4.1. You Have Been Set Apart in Christ

1 Peter 2:9,10

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

God wants his praises (Gr. *aretas* = virtues) to be revealed through you.

4.2. Saints Are Sanctified Ones

Saint *hagios* (Gr.) = a most holy thing, a consecrated thing.

Ephesians 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus.

Romans 1:7

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:21

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

Colossians 1:2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:9,10,14

⁹ Then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

It was through Christ's sacrifice that God sanctified us unto Himself.

4.3. Sanctification—A Present Continuous Process

In practical daily life, we continue to set ourselves apart unto God.

1 Thessalonians 4:1–7

¹ Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through

the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

1 John 3:1-3

¹ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Application

1. Your standards are different.

Romans 12:1,2

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be My people." ¹⁷ Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2. Your values are different.

John 5:41,44

⁴¹ "I do not receive honor from men. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

3. Living the 'set-apart' life will bring persecution and ridicule.

John 17:13-19

¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

4. Your testimony matters.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Proverbs 22:1

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.

5. This is a requirement to be a vessel of God.

2 Timothy 2:19–21

¹⁹ Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” ²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹ Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Psalm 4:3

But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

5

BLESSED, ENRICHED AND VICTORIOUS

5.1. Blessed

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.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Psalms 103:1-6

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, ⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶ The LORD executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Luke 12:32

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

5.2. Enriched

1 Corinthians 1:5-7

⁵ That you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that

you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5.3. 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.

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.)

1 John 5:1,4

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Application

1. Acknowledge the good things you have in Christ.

Philemon 1:6

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

2. Have an attitude of blessedness—your present situation is no indication of your final destination

3. Recognize your potential in God.

2 Corinthians 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.

4. Victory is yours, if you refuse to quit.

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

6

IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST—CRUCIFIED, BURIED, MADE ALIVE, 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.

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.

Romans 6

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore 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. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶knowing 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. ⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should

obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Three Keywords in Romans 6:

“Know”—know the truth. You have been crucified, buried, raised.

“Reckon”—accept the truth. Accept it as a fact.

“Yield”—give yourself to the Lord.

Colossians 2:11–13

¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

Ephesians 2:1–7

¹And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² 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, ³ 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. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- Crucified with Christ—The body 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.

6.1. Crucified with Christ—The Body of Sin was Destroyed

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Colossians 2:11

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.

Application

The body of sin—the power of sin—that old sinful nature was destroyed. So reckon yourselves to be dead to sin.

Three Keywords in Romans 6 have been used:

“Know”—know the truth. You have been crucified, buried, raised.

“Reckon”—accept the truth. Accept it as a fact.

“Yield”—give yourself to the Lord.

6.2. Buried with Christ—Separated from the Past Life

Ephesians 4: 21–25

²¹ If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

Colossians 3:3

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Application

You have been separated from the past life, so put away your former lifestyle.

6.3. Made Alive from the Dead with Christ—Given New Life

Ephesians 2:1–3

¹And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² 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, ³ 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.

Application

Live out the 'new creation' life.

6.4. Raised Up into the Heavens with Christ— Separated from the Present Age/World

Ephesians 2:6

And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:1,3

'If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Application

You have been separated from this present age. So set your affection on things above.

6.5. Seated with Christ—Positioned to Rule and Reign

Ephesians 2:6

And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Application

Exercise your authority.

7

DELIVERED AND REDEEMED

Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Colossians 1:12-14

¹²Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Greek words when translated convey 'redemption.'

Agaridzo (Gr.)= 'bought', 'to go to market'. Used to describe the market place, specifically the slave market.

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought (*agaridzo*) at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Revelation 5:9,10

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed (*agaridzo*) us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Exagridzo (Gr.)= to purchase a slave out of a slave market.

Galatians 3:13,14

¹³Christ has redeemed (*exagrido*) us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 4:4,5

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem (*exagrido*) those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Lutroo (Gr.)= to set a captive free by the payment of a ransom.

Titus 2:14

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem (*lutroo*) us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Antilutron (Gr.) = a redemption price, a ransom.

1 Timothy 2:5,6

⁵For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself a ransom (*antilutron*) for all, to be testified in due time.

Apolutrosis (Gr.)= to pay a ransom in order to return us to our former state.

Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption (*apolutrosis*) through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption (*apolutrosis*).

7.1. What Are We Redeemed from?

7.1.1. The dominion of darkness

Colossians 1:13,14

¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

7.1.2. The curse of the law

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”).

7.1.3. Every lawless deed

Titus 2:14

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

7.1.4. This present evil age

Galatians 1:3,4

³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

7.1.5. The fear of death

Hebrews 2:14,15

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who

had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

7.1.6. The vain manner of life of our forefathers

1 Peter 1:18,19

**¹⁸ Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,
¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

7.2. Restored unto God

Romans 5:11

And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Atonement *Katallage* (Gr.) =Exchange—of the business of moneychangers, exchanging equivalent values.

=Adjustment of a difference, reconciliation, restoration to favor, in the New Testament refers to the restoration of the favor of God to sinners that repent and put their trust in the expiatory death of Christ.

7.3. Christ is Our Redemption

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

Application

1. Know the reality of your redemption.

2. Say so!

Psalms 107:2

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

2. Walk free!

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

8

SET FREE

8.1. Freedom from Bondage to the Law

Galatians 2:3,4,16

³Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. ⁴ And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Galatians 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Galatians 6:15

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

Application

1. You do not belong to a religion. You belong to a person.
2. You do not live as part of a religious system. You live in Christ Jesus.

8.2. Freedom from Weak and Worthless Rituals

Galatians 4:6–11

⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” ⁷Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. ⁸ But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Philippians 3:3

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

8.3. Freedom from Man-Made Rules and Ideas

Colossians 2:18–23 (Amplified Bible)

¹⁸Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire and declaring you unworthy and disqualifying you for the prize, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions [he claims] he has seen, vainly puffed up by his sensuous notions and inflated by his unspiritual thoughts and fleshly conceit, ¹⁹And not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the entire body, supplied and knit together by means of its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. ²⁰If then you have died with Christ to material ways of looking at things and have escaped from the world’s crude and elemental notions and teachings of externalism, why do you live as if you still belong to the world? [Why do you submit to rules and regulations?—such as] ²¹Do not handle [this], Do not taste [that], Do not even touch [them], ²²Referring to things all of which perish with being used. To do this is to follow human precepts and doctrines. ²³Such [practices] have indeed the outward appearance [that popularly passes] for wisdom, in promoting self-imposed rigor of devotion and delight in self-humiliation and severity of discipline of the body, but they are of no value in checking the indulgence of the flesh (the lower nature). [Instead, they do not honor God but serve only to indulge the flesh.]

8.4. Stand Firm in Your Freedom

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Don't put yourself in bondage to man-made rules, rituals, and so on.

8.5. Do Not Abuse Your freedom

Galatians 5:13,14

¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 13:1–7

¹ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Ephesians 6:5–9

⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to

men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. ⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Colossians 3:22–25

²²Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

8.6. Use Your Freedom Wisely

Romans 14:1–9

¹ Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. ² For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. ³ Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. ⁴ Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

¹ Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. ² And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. ³ But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. ⁴ Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there

is no other God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. ⁷ However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. ⁹ But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? ¹¹ And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23

¹⁹ For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

9

PART OF HIS BODY

9.1. One in His Body

Romans 12:4–8

⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Our being in Christ has made us one with everyone else who is in Christ.

Romans 12:5 (Amplified Bible)

So we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another].

9.2. No Difference

Galatians 3:27,28

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:11

Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Our identity in Christ supersedes our racial, social or gender identity. Race, social standing or gender does not divide us.

Ephesians 1:10

That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

Ephesians 3:6

That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.

9.3. Interdependent

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Our identity in Christ supersedes our natural identity. We are dependent on each other. Each one of us has a function to perform.

We must honor and respect every member. God has given greater honor to those who do not receive honor.

1 Peter 5:14

Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

We recognize others who are in Christ Jesus.

9.4. We Collectively Represent Christ

Ephesians 1:22,23

²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:23 (Amplified Bible)

Which is his body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

We collectively represent Christ to the world. We are His Body here on Earth.

9.5. Built Together as God's Dwelling Place

Ephesians 2:21,22

²¹In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We are God's dwelling place on Earth. We are to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

9.6. Local Churches Are in Christ

Galatians 1:22

And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:14

For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans.

10

OUR INHERITANCE IN HIM

Ephesians 1:11,12

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Inheritance = to give to another as a possession, heritage.

God gave us this inheritance so that praises may be given to Him because of us.

Here are different things we can list as our "inheritance"—the good things of God, the abundance of His grace and wisdom given to us in Christ.

10.1. The Children of God

Galatians 3:26

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

10.2. The Promise of Life

2 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

To know Him and to be in Him is eternal life.

10.3. Joint-Heirs with Christ

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

To be an heir of God means that we shall be partakers of the inheritance that God gives to His people. We are in Christ and thus we partake with Him of His glory and His inheritance.

Colossians 1:12

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Acts 20:32

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

10.4. The Love of God in Christ

Romans 8:35–39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 17:23

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

The Father loves us just as He loves Jesus. This is an amazing truth!

10.5. Sealed with the Spirit

Ephesians 1:13,14

¹³In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Sealed *sphragizo* (Gr.) = to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation.

Guarantee *arrhabo* (Gr.)= a pledge, that is, part of the purchase money or property given in advance as security for the rest, earnest.

10.6. Preserved in Christ

Jude 1:1

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ.

We are called and preserved in Christ Jesus.

Preserve = to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard, metaphorically to keep, one in the state in which he is.

10.7. Established in Him

2 Corinthians 1:21

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God.

Establish = make firm, confirm, stabilize.

10.8. Part of an Eternal Purpose

Ephesians 3:11

According to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:9

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

Philippians 3:14

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

10.9. The Wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

Colossians 2:3

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

10.10. The Fullness of God

Colossians 1:19

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell.

Colossians 2:9,10

⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Fullness *pleroma* (Gr.) = repletion or completion, that is, what fills (as contents, supplement, copiousness, multitude), that which is put in to fill up.

Complete *pleroo* (Gr.) = to make replete, that is, to cram up, level up, to furnish (or imbue, diffuse, influence), satisfy, fill up.

John 1:16

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

We are complete (filled up) in Christ.

Ephesians 3:14–19

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4:13

¹³ Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The “fullness of God” that is in Christ is what is to be in us and manifested in us.

The “fullness of God” and the “fullness of Christ” are synonymous in Ephesians. The manifestation of the “fullness of Christ” is the life of Christ as He walked on the Earth.

10.11. Yes to All Promises

2 Corinthians 1:19,20

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

We have a right to see a fulfillment of all the promises of God so that God can be glorified through us.

10.12. No More Blindness

2 Corinthians 3:14

But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

What was obscure is now made clear. The Old Testament prophecies are so completely understood and seen fulfilled in Him.

10.13. Simplicity in Christ

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Simplicity *haplotes* (Gr.) = singleness, simplicity, sincerity, mental honesty.

= the virtue of one who is free from pretence and hypocrisy.

= not self-seeking, openness of heart manifesting itself by generosity.

1 Timothy 1:14

And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:13

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Life in Christ is simple. We simply walk in the faith and love that is in Christ.

10.14. Inheritor of the ‘Abrahamic’ Covenant

Galatians 3:16,17,29

¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ. ¹⁷ And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The blessings that were promised to Abraham as part of the ‘Abrahamic’ covenant is ours today.

- Blessing in all things—in all areas of life (Genesis 12:1–3; Genesis 24:1,35; Deuteronomy 8:18).
- Blessed to be a blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:1–3).
- Righteousness by faith (Romans 4:3).
- Friendship with God (James 2:23).
- Victory over enemies (Genesis 22:16,17).

10.15. Enabling Grace

2 Timothy 2:1

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

10.16. The Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

11

LIVING THE IN-CHRIST LIFE

2 Corinthians 5:17,18

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Because of simple faith in Jesus, God has done all these wonderful things for us, in us, to us—by bringing us into union with Christ. All that God has done for us in Christ are spiritual facts—spiritual reality. There is nothing more that we can add to it.

Hebrews 13:21

Make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

God is at work in me through Jesus Christ!

Some Questions to Consider

- What does God want me to do with what He has done for me, and given to me in Christ?
- What do I need to do to live the In-Christ Life?
- How do I live out my union with Christ?
- How do I experience in daily life what God has done for me in Christ?

Colossians 2:6–10

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

11.1. Walk in Him

Colossians 2:6 (Amplified Bible)

... (Regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him.

Walk *peripateo* (Gr.) = to tread all around, that is, to live, deport oneself, follow, go, be occupied with.

Acts 17:28

For in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’

1 John 2:5,6

⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

The way Jesus walked in union with the Father is the way we ought to be walking in union with Jesus.

John 5:19,20

¹⁹ Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

John 8:28,29

²⁸ Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. ²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

Paul talked about His ‘ways’ in Christ.

- My ways in Christ—”For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church” (1 Corinthians 4:17).
- We speak in Christ—”For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ” (2 Corinthians 2:17); “For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying— a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth” (1 Timothy 2:7)
- My bonds in Christ—”So that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ”(Philippians 1:13); “Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you” (Philemon 1:23).
- Bold in Christ—”Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting” (Philemon 1:8).

From these and many other Scriptures, we see that Apostle Paul had a deep understanding of being in Christ and perceived everything he did as flowing out of the union He had with Christ.

1 Peter 3:16

Having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

We are to maintain a ‘good conversation in Christ.’

1 Corinthians 8:6

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

Everything we are is because of Him.

11.2. Be Rooted in Him

Colossians 2:7 (Amplified Bible)

Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in him, fixed and founded in him]...

Rooted *rhizoo* (Gr.) = to root (figuratively become stable).

The roots of your being should be firmly planted in Him.

Let your roots go deep into the person of Jesus Christ—not in a denomination, a ministry, a vision, a certain kind of teaching—but in the person of Jesus Christ.

11.3. Built Up in Him

Colossians 2:7 (Amplified Bible)

...Being continually built up in Him...

Built up *epoikodomeo* (Gr.) = to build upon, that is, (figuratively) to rear up, build thereon.

We see different stages of spiritual growth in Christ.

- Spiritual birth—“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers;

for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel” (1 Corinthians 4:15).

- Babies in Christ—”And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:1).
- Mature (perfect) in Christ—”Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28).

Ephesians 4:13 (Amplified Bible)

...That [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ’s own perfection)...

Ephesians 4:15 (Amplified Bible)

...Let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him, who is the head,

11.4. Abide in Him

John 15:1–8

¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ “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. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Abide meno (Gr.) = A primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy), continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry, and so on.

1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 John 4:13

By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:15

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

11.4.1. When we abide in Him, there are certain characteristics of behavior that will manifest

- (a) We will take on the mind of Christ—"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).
- (b) In every thing we give thanks—"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- (c) We are taught of the Spirit—"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him" (1 John 2:27).

- (d) We walk in obedience—”Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us” (1 John 3:24).
- (e) We walk in holiness—”And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him” (1 John 3:5,6).

11.5. Acknowledge Every Good Thing You Have in Him

Philemon 1:6

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

Application

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

MY PORTRAIT IN CHRIST

(Write out who you are in Christ)

NOTES

NOTES

DO YOU KNOW THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU?

About 2000 years ago, God came into this world as a man. His name is Jesus. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Since Jesus was God in flesh, everything He said and did revealed God to us. The words He spoke were the very words of God. The things He did were the actions of God. Jesus did many miracles on the Earth. He healed the sick and suffering. He opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the lame to walk and healed every kind of sickness and disease. He fed the hungry by miraculously multiplying a few loaves of bread, calmed the storm and did many other wonderful things.

All of these actions reveal to us that God is a good God who wants people to be well, whole, healthy and happy. God wants to meet the needs of people.

So why then would God decide to become a man and step in to our world? Why did Jesus come?

All of us have sinned and done things that are unacceptable before the God who created us. Sin has its consequences. Sin is like a great unsurpassable wall between God and us. Sin separates us from God. It prevents us from knowing and having a meaningful relationship with the One who created us. Therefore, many of us try to fill this void with other things.

Another consequence of our sins is eternal separation from God. In God's court, the penalty for sin is death. Death is eternal separation from God in hell.

But, the good news is that we can be free from sin and be restored to God. The Bible says, **“For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)**. Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world when He died on the cross. Then, three days later He rose again, showed Himself alive to many and then went back into heaven.”

God is a God of love and mercy. He does not wish that any person be lost in hell. And so He came, to provide a way for the entire human race to be free from sin and its lasting consequences. He came to save sinners—to rescue people like you and me from sin and eternal death.

To receive this free forgiveness of sins, the Bible tells us that we have to do just one thing—accept what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross and to believe in Him whole-heartedly.

“... through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins” (Acts 10:43).

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

You too can receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins if you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is a simple prayer to help you make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. This prayer will help you express your acceptance of what Jesus has done for you and receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins. This prayer is only a guideline. You can also pray in your own words.

Dear Lord Jesus, today, I have understood what You did for me on the cross. You died for me, You shed Your precious blood and paid the penalty for my sins, so that I could be forgiven. The Bible tells me that whoever believes in You will receive forgiveness for their sins.

Today, I make a decision to believe in You and to accept what You did for me, by dying for me on the cross and rising again from the dead. I know I cannot save myself by my own good works, neither can any other human save me. I cannot earn forgiveness for my sins.

Today, I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that You died for me, You paid the penalty for my sins, You rose again from the dead, and by faith in You, I receive forgiveness and cleansing for my sins..

Thank You Jesus. Help me to love You, to know You more and to be faithful to You. Amen.

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All Peoples Church & World Outreach, Bangalore, India, has extended its ministry by launching its Bible College & Ministry Training Center (APC-BC&MTC) in August 2005. APC-BC&MTC equips, trains and releases faithful men and women to impact villages, towns and cities in India and other nations, for Jesus Christ.

APC-BC&MTC is a member institution of the Apostolic Council for Educational Accountability, Colorado Springs, USA, (www.acea-schools.org).

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For more information please see the page overleaf.

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All Peoples Church
370, 11th Cross, 2nd Block,
R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 032
Karnataka, INDIA

Phone: +91-80-2354 4328

Email: contact@apcwo.org

Website: www.apcwo.org

Who We Are in Christ

ASHISH RAICHUR

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MY PORTRAIT IN CHRIST

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Managing Editor / Head of Publications: Valentina Hubert
Assistant Editor: Arthi Rachel Isaiah
Cover and Graphics Design: Karuna Jerome, byFaith Designz

Contact Information:

All Peoples Church
370, 11th Cross, 2nd Block
R.T. Nagar, Bangalore 560 032
Karnataka, INDIA

Phone: +91-80-2354 4328
Email: contact@apcwo.org
Website: www.apcwo.org

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