

“In Christ” “In Him” or “In Christ Jesus” = 160xs!

Questions for discussion and application

- What does it mean to be “In Christ”?
- How does Jesus’ teaching in John 15:1-4 help us understand our union with Him? How does Jesus’ prayer in John 17:20-23 help us?
- From Romans 5:12-19, list what is true of a person “in Adam” and of a person “in Christ.”
- What are some of the benefits of our union with Christ?
- Read Colossians 3:1-4. According to these verses, if you are in Christ, what do you share in?
- What does it mean for Christ “to be your life”? (See Colossians 3:4)
- Read the loooooong sentence found in Ephesians 1:3-14. What do we have “in Him (Christ)”? Why do you think Paul takes the time to address the Ephesians this way?
- How did being united with Christ define Paul’s life? See Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 1:21
- Can a person be “In Christ” and it make no difference to his / her lifestyle?
- It was said, “*When I look at my life on any given day - I might see failure and sin, shame and disgrace but that’s not the whole story! I’ve been united with Christ – I have value and worth and with it a new confidence to bring my sin and failures to a gracious and loving God who forgives and empowers.*” How else might a clear understanding that we are “united with Christ” help, comfort, encourage or strengthen us?

1. A Christian is someone who is IN Christ: RELATIONSHIP

“IN Christ” is a way to describe our salvation.

This idea of union is at the heart of the Old Testament’s view of God’s relationship with his people.

Compared with *a marriage bond* - **Isaiah 54:5-8**

Compared with *a representative for a community*

Jesus taught on this union and prayed for it to happen.

- **John 15:4-5**
- **John 17:20-23**
- **Acts 9:5**

Romans 5:12-19

God appointed Adam as our representative or “head.”
Jesus came as the “2nd Adam” – an “Adam in reverse.”

- Undoing what Adam did
- Regaining what Adam lost
- Restoring to us what Adam broke
- It goes much further than this.

2. The far-reaching (extensive) benefits of being IN Christ: IDENTITY

Colossians 2:12; 3:1-4

Ephesians 1:3-14 – one loooooooooong sentence in the Greek

If you are IN Christ then you have been
CHOSEN,
CALLED,
MADE ALIVE,
JUSTIFIED,
CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS,
SANCTIFIED

You *have*
REDEMPTION,
ETERNAL LIFE,
RIGHTEOUSNESS,
WISDOM,
FREEDOM,
RIGHTS as SONS AND DAUGHTERS,
EVERY spiritual blessing

You *will be*
RAISED
GLORIFIED
REIGN FOREVER

Paul's own story = **Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 1:21**

My sin and disgrace is not the whole story!