

I Am In Christ - Ephesians 1:3-14 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

Who am I? Our current series is seeking to help us understand how the Scriptures answer this question about our identity. I could say that I am a Christian, or a follower of Jesus, a person who is part of the Way. But as I look at the Scriptures there is one phrase that appears significantly more than any other when speaking of the identity for the believer and the nature of our life. It is that we are "In Christ". Our theme verse for this series, 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that if any person is "In Christ, he is a new creation." This phrase is more than slang, or shorthand. It is a deep statement about how God sees us and the nature of our salvation.

To fully understand this we have to begin by realizing how God's word speaks of our identity apart from Christ. Romans 6 and 1 Corinthians 15 remind us that we are originally in Adam. This means that Adam is our representative, our father in our humanity, and his failure and sin stands as our representative, and his fate of death is our fate. We are in Adam, and Adam is in us. His failure is both passed on to us and we reveal by the self focused nature of our lives that we are truly his children. Every human identity is stained and enslaved by the sin brought into the world through Adam. We need rescue.

But this is exactly what the Gospel declares to us. God has done a miraculous and glorious thing for and to us. First, because of the Gospel we are placed in Christ. We are no longer in Adam, we are in Christ. He is our representative, our head. He is both the source of our salvation and our advocate before God our judge. Being in Christ means that God no longer treats us as we deserve, we are granted all the blessings deserved and provided to Jesus. But more than that, being in Christ means that we are actually present in everything Jesus did for us in His humanity. Christ came and lived a perfect life, showing the glory of His perfect righteousness. Romans 5:21 though, tells us that God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we could become the righteousness of God. Do you see it. God no longer looks at the taint of sin and the nature of Adam in us, rather, He has given us a foreign righteousness, imputed to us. We are present in the life of Christ and share His righteousness. But we are also present in the death of Jesus. His death is our death. In reality, believer in Jesus, you died with Christ on that cross. And that death was the penalty justice demanded. So I've been crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20). But this is not the end. In Christ, I am also raised together with Christ. Resurrection day the first Easter was actually my resurrection day. Then Christ ascended to the heavenlies to rule and reign. And that was also my coronation day, the day that I, being in Christ, was seated in the heavenly places. Here is the point. Jesus is both the recipient and fountain head for all the blessings, promises, and glories of our salvation. When we believed in Jesus we were no longer in Adam, we were placed in Christ. Just look at our text from Ephesians, notice all the times the phrases, "In Christ," "In Him," or "In the Beloved" are mentioned. Then read the blessings that are already true for you in this passage. Nothing is in the future tense. These are statements that as far as God is concerned are already true of you, and they had nothing to do with your effort, your performance, your merit. These things are true because they are yours in Christ!

I think our mindset is that being a Christian is nothing more than a moral shift. We tend to believe we were pretty good people who needed a tuneup. This is not the Gospel. We were in Adam, guilty and helpless, ruled by the curse. And God in His mercy because of His love for us placed us in Christ. We are treated with the blessings earned by Jesus because we have been placed in Him. And nothing can take us out of this position and relationship. You can't lose it, and none of our enemies can rob us from this union in Christ.

This is why the great truth of this union in Christ is one of the great doctrines of the Bible, and is the core of our new identity in Christ.

But its more than this. We were born in Adam, and we also had Adam in us. But the glory of redemption is that not only were we placed in Christ positionally, Christ has come to reign in our lives relationally. Christ in me is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). The old nature is replaced with a new me, filled with the presence and power of Jesus. Christ in me points to intimacy of relationship, His presence with me day by day. Christ in me also points to power, the filling of God’s Spirit to live out the new identity. And the purpose is that God takes me, the real me, and makes me like Jesus. I am in Christ, and that is core to all that I am!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ezekiel 37	Ezekiel 38	Ezekiel 39	Ezekiel 40	Ezekiel 41	Ezekiel 42	Ezekiel 43

Reading from this past week: Ephesians 1:3-14

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Ephesians 1:3-14

Family Worship

Song - *In Christ Alone*

<https://youtu.be/rKKJqaaDyS8>

Gospel Project

Story: The Jerusalem Council

Story Point: Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus.

Big Picture Question: What is the Bible about?

Answer: The Bible is the story of God’s plan to save people through Jesus.

Scripture: Acts 15

New City Catechism

Question #19: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God’s favor?

Answer: Yes, God reconciles us to himself by a Redeemer.

Verse: Isaiah 53:10-11

Scripture

Ephesians 1:3-14

- How many times can you find the phrases, “In Christ,” “In Him,” or “In the beloved,” in our text? Why would Paul repeat this idea over and over again?
- What are some of the things this text say are already true of our identity if we are in Christ?
- How can knowing I am in Christ help me fight temptation, deal with depression and anxiety, or find hope in rejection and pain?

Prayer

*Pray that you would realize all the glorious benefits of being in Christ and that being in Christ would be the core of your identity.

*Pray and give thanks for your mom. Also, pray for our Ladyies Event this Saturday.