

# *“In Christ”*

## What Does This Mean In Practical Terms?

**Philippians 3:7-11** [NIV] *“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss **for the sake of Christ**. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may **gain Christ** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith **in Christ**, the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to **know Christ** and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”*

Paul’s standard phrase for a Christian is on who is *“in Christ”*, many things are contained in this short statement.

**Romans 6:3** [NIV] *“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised **into Christ Jesus** were baptised into his death?”*

As believers we identify with Jesus Christ.

In baptism we identify with Christ’s death, we too must crucify our old nature.

**Romans 6:4-7** [NIV] *“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, **just as Christ** was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”*

We identify with a new life that Jesus Christ now has, our High Priest at God the Father’s right hand we, as we too are *“born again”* by the Holy Spirit who resurrected Christ.

**John 3:3, 5-7** [NIV] *“In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” ... “Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”*

Having died to sin through accepting Christ’s death as a substitute for our own deserved death, the Holy Spirit in us gives us this new birth, a child of God.

**Ephesians 2:6** [NIV] *“And God raised us up **with Christ** and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in **Christ Jesus**,”*

We identify with Christ in the heavenly realm, just as Christ identifies with us on earth, the church being His body.

**Colossians 1:18** [NIV] *“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”*

### **Our entire salvation takes place *“in Christ”***

We are chosen by Christ.

**John 15:16** [NIV] *“You did not choose me, but **I chose you** and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

Justified by Christ.

**Romans 3:23-24** [NIV] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that **came by Christ Jesus.**”*

Made righteous in Christ.

**Romans 4:11, 21-24** [NIV] *“And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.” ... “being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.”*

By the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.

**1 Peter 3:18** [NIV] *“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but **made alive by the Spirit,**”*

Our faith “*in Christ*” is what makes us children of God.

**Galatians 3:26** [NIV] *“You are all sons of God through faith **in Christ Jesus,**”*

## **Our present life is “*in Christ*”**

**Romans 12:4-5** [NIV] *“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so **in Christ** we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the other”*

Part of His body on earth, the church.

**2 Corinthians 2:17** [NIV] *“Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, **in Christ** we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.”*

Being “*in Christ*” should flavour our speech as representatives of God.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** [NIV] *“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm **in Christ.** He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”*

Our present life is solidly founded “*in Christ*”.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-19** [NIV] *“Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ,** he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself **through Christ** and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself **in Christ,** not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”*

A new creation “*in Christ*” and a new job to perform.

**Ephesians 1:3-8** [NIV] *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing **in Christ.** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons **through Jesus Christ,** in accordance with his pleasure and will, to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”*

All spiritual blessings and riches come to us from heaven “*in Christ*” including wisdom and understanding.

**1 Corinthians 15:22-23** [NIV] “*For as in Adam all die, so **in Christ** all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*”

## **Our resurrection after death will also be “*in Christ*”**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** [NIV] “*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead **in Christ** will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*”

If we are “*in Christ*” and remain “*in Christ*” we have nothing to fear.

## **How then are we “*in Christ*”?**

When Christ is in us!

**John 14:15-20** [NIV] “*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Counsellor** to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you.** Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and **I am in you.**”*

It is by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us that Christ is in us and we are “*in Christ*”.