

### **Who You Are In Christ 5/21/00**

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

<sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

Eph 1:13-14 (NIV)

There are things as we perceive them to be and then there are things as God's word declares them to be in reality. What we observe often confuses us as we misinterpret the circumstances or visual. We walk by faith and not by sight and so we look to God's word to help us interpret what we see and sweep away the false concepts. One of our great needs is to realize who we are in Christ. The verse in Ephesians tells us how we came to be included in Christ. Now what does that mean to us and how does that change the reality of who we are and what we have?

- It changes everything! This morning we are going to look at the declaration of Scripture and see who we really are in Christ.

I hope you will take this in two different ways. I pray it gives you a new perception of your standing in Christ Jesus first of all. Many of our problems of attitude and discouragement come from a lack of this realization. We think somehow we are still the old man. The Scripture declares He is dead, and yet we must die daily to old thought patterns and habits. We are tempted to choose to return to that corpse as if there was some value in it or its ways. Galatians 2 says rebuilding what we tore down. But that is not who you are in Christ. These Scriptures are going to tell you the truth of who you are and what you have.

Secondly I pray that it will give you a new and real understanding of who and what your brothers are in Christ. That will certainly change the way we think about each other and act toward each other. Your brother and sister are much more than what you can see with your physical eyes. Again, take this personal, who you are and for each one here and every Christian.

In Christ Jesus I have been given grace 1Co 12:4

*Charis*, is said to be the most beautiful word to fall on human ears. Without there is no hope for us for God is just. But in Christ I receive this wonderful gift that I did not earn. I have hope for that grace provides a way for me to come to God and be right with Him.

In Christ Jesus I am dead to sin but alive to God Ro 6:12

Not hope to be but AM presently. My old self died on the cross with Christ and now in Christ my spirit is alive and communicating with God.

In Christ Jesus I have eternal life Ro 6:23

Again this is not something I will enter into, it is something I possess right now. Life is in Jesus and since I am in him I have eternal life.

In Christ Jesus I have no condemnation Ro 8:1

Though all hell would condemn me, though my mind would condemn me, though my brothers in Christ would condemn me, in Christ I have no condemnation. All the sins of my life were nailed to that cross, and his blood paid the entire debt. In Christ I have no condemnation. What a relief!

In Christ Jesus I can't be separated from God's love. Ro 8:39  
I may be separated from man's love, from the love of friends and family, or even the fellowship I attend, but in Christ I cannot be separated from God's agape love.

In Christ Jesus I am part of a body, a family, a temple. Ro 12:5

In Christ Jesus I am a son of God. Gal 3:26

In Christ Jesus I am one with the family of God. Gal 3:28

I am no longer a loner but a part of something from which no one can pull me away. I fit here. I belong here. It is only the beginning of a relationship that will be forever. In this life relationships end, death separates but nothing can separate me from my place in this family.

In Christ Jesus, He is my righteousness, holiness, and redemption 1Co 1:30

In Christ Jesus I have His peace. Jn 16:33, 14:27

In Christ Jesus I have abundant grace, faith and love. 1Tim 1:14

In Christ Jesus I have all the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Col 2:2,3

All that is in Christ, He makes available to me. He himself is my righteousness, holiness, peace. In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge and I am in Him. He shares them with me as I need them through the Holy Spirit.

In Christ Jesus I have been brought near to God. Eph 2:13

Lord help us understand the depth of that. God is light, perfect in everything. God is love – holy - and we have been brought near.

In Christ Jesus I am a new creation. 2 Co 5:17

The old is gone, the new has come. He rested from his creation but resumed again to make a new me. I am not the old person cleaned up, I am a new creation.

In Christ Jesus I am become the righteousness of God. 2 Co 5:21

If I ever doubt God's attitude toward me I should remember this verse. In Christ I am the righteousness of God. In Christ my brothers are the righteousness of God. No wonder there is no condemnation to those in Christ. Talk about a new creation, the righteousness of God is entirely new to who I am. I can't be what I was.

In Christ Jesus I have been given fullness, I am complete. Col 2:9,10

I will grow in grace in this life I manifest toward those who come in contact with me, but toward God, in his eyes, all that needed to be done was done. I can't do more. I can't add to it. I am complete in Christ Jesus.

In Christ Jesus I have every spiritual blessing. Eph 1:3

I may still need to allow it to flow through my life, but it is there in Christ, mine, if I will access it. I can't be more spiritually blessed! I have EVERY spiritual blessing!!!

In Christ Jesus I am seated in the heavenly realms. Eph 2:6  
There right now at the right hand of God. I am in Jesus, seated at the helm of the universe. For I was included in Him. I will – I do- rule and reign in Jesus.

In Christ Jesus I share the inheritance and promises to the Israel. Eph 3:6 He is my God and I am a part of his people. My heart of stone was made a heart of flesh. Dry bones came together and I was made to live. King Jesus is my King forever.

In Christ Jesus all my needs will be met. Phil 4:19  
I will never have a need that is not met in Him. That is real security and peace.

In Christ Jesus my physical body will rise. 1Thes 4:16  
In Christ Jesus I have the promise of life! 2Tim 1:1  
I such confident hope because He was raised from the dead! He is the firstfruits. The same power that raised him will raise my physical body.

In Christ Jesus all things are mine! 1Cor 3:20-23  
In Christ Jesus I am an heir of God. Ro 8:17  
Could we be any wealthier? Could we ask anymore? Could we be any more blessed? Are you hearing this in your spirit? Do you know it is true?

This has been a reality check. Sometimes when you get discouraged, doubt where things are going, doubt your value – Go over these things that are true of you in Christ. Renew your mind. Let the Word change your attitude as you see through the word what is real.

And when you are tempted to consider yourself greater than your brother, or look down on your brother's perspective or maturity, when you start to categorize or condemn those in Christ,- remember that brother has the same standing with God as you do, in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 2:11 Jesus has made us one with Him. The word family is not in the Greek. He is not ashamed to call us brothers, for He made us holy – sanctified. Do we see who we are in Him? Therefore, whoever despises his brother, despises the Lord. Whoever refuses to love his brother refuses to love the Lord. In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers you have done it to me Mt 25:34-46 – Do we see that in all it's reality? Do you want to bless Jesus? Bless your brother. Do you want to wash his feet? Wash your brother's.

Who are you? and what do you have in Christ? Go over the list. Go over it frequently and see things from God's perspective. Renew your mind. Accept what the word says about the new self. In you, in this fellowship, in other Christians, of whom you are ONE. Let's read the list together and recognize what the grace of God has done for us.