

"In Christ"
Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 John 5:20

I. "In Christ"

A. In Christ is:

1. _____—imparting of the divine nature of God into an unregenerate person.
2. _____—God declaring one forever right and acceptable in His sight.
3. _____—Redeemed or purchased from the power and penalty of sin
4. _____—Being set apart unto God and away from the unsaved world.

B. Law Vs Grace

1. The LAW says _____ is needed in order to have union with God
2. GRACE says a _____ with God is necessary for one to have holiness.

II. "In Christ" we have an _____ union

A. Eternity past

1. Eph 1:4-6—Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.
2. II Timothy 1:7-9—For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 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,

B. Eternity future

1. John 3:16
2. John 3:36
3. John 5:24

III. "In Christ" we have a _____ union

A. John 14:20—At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

B. You in _____, Christ in _____

C. All the blessings and eternal salvation of Christ have become the property of those who are in Christ. I Cor 1:30-31—But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.

D. All the vice and sin belonging to those who are in Christ became the _____ of Christ.

1. Rom 6:1-4, What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore 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. 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.
2. Rom 7:15-25a—For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for

to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God---through Jesus Christ our Lord!

E. "C" and "D"—the _____ life

1. In Christ a two-fold purpose is met:

2. The soul is emptied of _____.

3. The soul is filled with _____.

F. Christ became the "Son of Man" so that we might become the "Children of God". He took upon Himself humanity that we might take upon ourselves Divinity." H. J. Gordon
II Cor 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.

IV. "In Christ" we have an in _____ union.

A. This union of Christ and the believer can _____ be broken

1. Rom 8:35-39-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.

2. Eph 5:29-30-For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

Concl: John 15:1-5-"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 vine furnishes the branches not only with the principle of life, but with the _____ of life. Christian progress is a growing toward Christ by growing from the enabling _____ of Christ.