
IN
Christ

To be ‘in Christ’ means that by grace, through faith and by the Holy Spirit a believer is united to Jesus Christ in such a way that His history becomes our history.

His righteousness becomes our righteousness.

His life becomes our life.

His Father becomes our Father.

His inheritance becomes our inheritance.

His future becomes our future.

All that Christ has accomplished is shared with those who are united to Him.

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## EPHESIANS 1:3-14 (NKJV)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 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, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

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## EPHESIANS 1:3-14 (NKJV)

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

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## EPHESIANS 1:3-14 (NKJV)

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

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## Verse 4: We are chosen

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Verse 5: We are adopted.
Verse 7: We are redeemed and forgiven.
Verse 8: We are given all wisdom and prudence.
Verse 11, 14: We have an Inheritance.
Verse 13: We are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will…”

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**JOHN 1:12-13**

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

**(MSG)**

“These are the God-begotten,
not blood-begotten,
not flesh-begotten,”

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**JOHN 3:5-6 (NKJV)**

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

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**1 PETER 1:23 (NKJV)**

“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever…”

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## 1 PETER 1:23 (AMP)

“You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin (seed, sperm), but from one that is immortal by the ever living and lasting Word of God”

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## 1 JOHN 3:9 (AMP)

“No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God’s nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.”

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## GALATIANS 4:1-7 (MSG)

“Let me show you the implications of this. As long as the heir is a minor, he has no advantage over the slave. Though legally he owns the entire inheritance, he is subject to tutors and administrators until *whatever date the father has set for emancipation.* That is the way it is with us: When we were minors, we were just like slaves ordered around by simple instructions (the tutors and administrators of this world), with no say in the conduct of our own lives.

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## GALATIANS 4:1-7 (MSG)

But when the *time arrived that was set by God the Father*, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, “Papa! Father!” Doesn’t that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you’re also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.”

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**GALATIANS 4:1-7 (NIV)**

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship

Marginal Note

{The Greek word for *adoption to sonship* is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.}

Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*, Father.”

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“To be a son is infinity more than to be a child and the terms are never loosely used by the Holy Spirit. It is not a difference of relationship but of position. Every born again child of God has in him the nature of his father and is a beloved member of his Father’s family. Adoption cannot make the child any nearer or dearer, yet it gives the child a status he did not enjoy before, a position he did not occupy. It is the recognition as an adult son, the attainment of his majority, the seal upon his growth to maturity of mind and character. A child is born of God; a son is one taught of God. A child has God’s nature; a son has God’s character.”

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**ISAIAH 9:6 (NKJV)**

“Unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given.”

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## EPHESIANS 4:11-16 (MSG)

“He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor- teacher to train Christ’s followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ’s body, the church, until we’re all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God’s Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. No prolonged infancies among us, please. We’ll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are easy prey for predators. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love”

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## 1 PETER 2:2 (AMP)

“Like newborn babies [you should] long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may be nurtured and grow in respect to salvation [its ultimate fulfilment],”

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## 1 PETER 2:2 (EXB)

“As newborn babies want milk, you should want the pure [sincere; unadulterated] and simple [or spiritual] teaching [milk;]. By it you can mature [grow; reach maturity] in your salvation.”

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## ROMANS 8:22-23 (NKJV)

“For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”

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## HEBREWS 6:1-2 (MSG)

“So come on, let’s leave the preschool fingerpainting exercises on Christ and get on with the grand work of art. Grow up in Christ. The basic foundational truths are in place: turning your back on “salvation by self- help” and turning in trust toward God; baptismal instructions; laying on of hands; resurrection of the dead; eternal judgment. God helping us, we’ll stay true to all that. But there’s so much more. Let’s get on with it!”

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**LUKE 2:40 (NKJV)**

“And the child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

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**LUKE 2:52 (NKJV)**

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.”

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