

YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

To be “in Christ” is to be a child of God, born again to spiritual life, indwelled eternally by the Holy Spirit, and to be loved eternally by God the Father through Jesus the Son. To be “in Christ” you have fulfilled the condition of cooperation with Holy Spirit conviction and allowed the Spirit to bring you to believe and receive Jesus. Once you are “in Christ”, you are chosen by God the Father to salvation in its completeness.

Ephesians 1:4 Philippians 1:6

“In Christ”, you are a child of God who still commits sin. But you are no longer enslaved to sin. Through cooperation with the Spirit of Christ, you have been saved from the power of sin. Being filled with the Spirit and allowing Christ to live His life in you, the fruits of the Spirit are your tools with a power cord. You can produce the actions of love and patience by the power of the Spirit.

Do not believe the Devil’s lie that your identity is still “a sinner.” Rather, you are a child of God being saved from sin even though you are still living in this body which contains the flesh and the flesh never becomes less sinful. Nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh (Romans 7:18). So, the life “in Christ” is to be lived in the power of the Spirit, and not in the flesh.

Do not believe the Devil’s lie that Christ was punished to pay for your sin, or that God killed Jesus to appease His wrath toward you. The truth is that Jesus died to condemn sin to the utmost and arose with the power to take your sin away and dwell in you to do His righteous acts in you. Because you are a “new creation” in Christ, you can have your fleshly actions replaced by the very righteous acts of Christ living in you. But because you retain the memories and the habits of the flesh, you will still be tempted to sin. Only by the power of the Spirit within you, can you cooperate with the Spirit and overcome temptations as they arrive. Your sins are not paid for by Christ. You still pay for your sins due to their consequences in this life and loss of rewards in eternity. When you sin and then turn back to dependency on Christ you are not living the life of a sinner. The reason you can turn in repentance and dependency on Christ is because God loves you unconditionally. Sanctification is an unconditional promise of God upon your life if you are “in Christ.” God promises to complete the work He began in you. There does exist “eternal security” for those who are “in Christ.”

Our identity “in Christ”, our knowledge of His acceptance of us, and our understanding of our dependence on Him to live His life in us, keeps us from falling into despair when we fail. The love and acceptance of God is our foundation for living. We are saved by faith and we must live by faith. When we fail, we get back up and return to living in dependence upon “Christ living in me.” The more clearly we see the holiness and righteousness of God, the more clearly we see our sinfulness. Everything concerning our flesh is sinful. Jesus says, “Without Me you can do nothing of eternal value and quality.” Paul says, Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20

