

2 Corinthians 5:14–17 (NASB)

14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

17 Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**.

Galatians 3:28 (NASB)

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one **in Christ Jesus**.

Ephesians 1:3–8 (NASB)

3 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**,

4 just as He **chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NASB)

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were **sealed in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Knowing Your True Identity

It is interesting to note that there is a primary way that the Bible uses more than any other, to identify those who are the true followers of Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, the Apostle Paul uses this identity marker 164 times in his thirteen epistles. And not only does this description address the spiritual sphere of our union with Jesus, it also highlights the spiritual benefits that belong to those who have been rescued from their greatest enemies (sin and death), because of our Lord's vicarious death on the cross and His victorious resurrection.

I. "In Christ," We Have a Spiritual Transformation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

II. "In Christ," We Have Liberation from Sin's Condemnation (Romans 8:1)

III. "In Christ," We have a Special Unification (Galatians 3:28)

IV "In Christ, " We Have Every Spiritual Provision (Ephesians 1:3-6)

V. "In Christ," We Have Total Redemption (Ephesians 1:7-8)

VI. "In Christ," We Are His "Marked Out" Possession (Ephesians 1:13-14)

VII. "In Christ," We Experience Completion (Colossians 1:28; 2:6-15)

Practical Implications

1. God has done what no other human organization has ever been able to achieve fully, and that is to unite people who were formally estranged into one body, which is the church. All those who are in Christ stand equally at the foot of the cross (Galatians 3:28).
2. The sphere of being in Christ is the same as being identified as being saved, born again or miraculously brought into union with Jesus.
3. Being in Christ guarantees our destiny as proven by the sealing of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14).
4. Those who are in Christ, are complete in Christ, which means that they possess everything they need for the salvation of their souls and the future expectation of being conformed to the image of God's Son in Glory (Colossians 2:9-10; Ephesians 1:3-4; 5:25-27).