

Colossians 2:11 - The Complete Work of Christ

Col 2:9-15 NIV For ***in Christ*** all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and ***in Christ*** you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 ***In him*** you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised ***by Christ***, 12 having been buried ***with him*** in baptism, in which you were also raised ***with him*** through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive ***with Christ***. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

In Christ

7 x we see these words “In Christ”...”In him”...”with him”...”with Christ” and “by Christ”...Here is a statement by John Stott a Christian leader and author.

The commonest description in the Scriptures of a follower of Jesus is that he or she is a person “in Christ.” The expressions “in Christ,” “in the Lord,” and “in him” occur 164 times in the letters of Paul alone, and are indispensable to an understanding of the New Testament....Christian is used 3 times.

What Does “In Christ” Really Mean?

Example of Abraham & Levi

- SLIDE 1 Abraham paid a tithe of the spoils of war to Melchizedek (Gen 14:20)

- SLIDE 2 Levi paid tithes ***IN ABRAHAM***
 - Heb 7:9-10 NIV One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, 10 because when Melchizedek met Abraham, ***Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.***

- **SLIDE 3 Because Levi was *IN ABRAHAM*** - the action was also ascribed to him
 - SLIDE 4 Abraham - begat Isaac - who begat Jacob - who begat Levi (roughly 150 years)
 - SLIDE 5 - where were we when Adam sinned?
 - SLIDE 6 - in Adam

IN ADAM all die

- SLIDE 7 - 1Co 15:21-22 NIV For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 ***For as in Adam all die***, so in Christ all will be made alive.
- SLIDE 8 - SLIDE 9 - SLIDE 10
- SLIDE 11 - SLIDE 12 - SLIDE 13
- SLIDE 14

We are either *In Adam*, or We are *In Christ*

- 1Co 15:45-49 NIV So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

Adam	Jesus
First man	Last Adam - The second man
Living being	Life-giving Spirit
Natural	Spiritual
Of the dust of the earth	Of heaven
Representative head of earthly men [in Adam all die]	Representative head of heavenly men [In Christ all are made alive]
We have borne the image of the earthly man	We shall bear the image of the heavenly man

If you come in Second and Last - how many people are in the race?

Christ is the LAST Adam and the SECOND man, there are only two representative heads of the entire human race,...all people are either IN ADAM or IN CHRIST..... 2Co 5:17 NIV Therefore, ***if anyone is in Christ***, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Three Things Accomplished in His Completed Work

1) He [circumcised] PUT OFF the old self ruled by the flesh - a primary contributor to sin

- Col 2:11 ***In him*** you were also **circumcised** with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised ***by Christ***, 12 having been **buried *with him*** in baptism, in which you were also **raised *with him*** through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.
- Col 2:12 AMP [Thus [g]you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with Him [[h]to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [[i]as displayed] when He raised Him up from the dead.

In Him we were circumcised

- Not by human hands
- Not a physical foreskin -- but our whole self ruled by the flesh was PUT OFF in baptism
- When He was buried & raised - I was buried & raised with him in baptism (I am IN CHRIST)
- Through faith in the WORKING of God - *energeia* - God's working energy
- It is the circumcision of the heart [see Rom 2:28-29]

The Significance of Baptism and Being In Christ... ..IN CHRIST I am Dead, Buried and Risen

- Rom 6:1-12 NIV What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (2) By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (3) Or don't you know that all of us who were **baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death**? (4) **We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death** in order that, just as **Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life**. (5) For if we have been **united with him in a death like his**, we will certainly also be united with him **in a resurrection like his**. (6) For we know that our **old self was crucified with him** so that **the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin**-- (7) because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. (8) Now if **we died with Christ**, we believe that we will also **live with him**. (9) For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (10) The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. (11) In the same way, count yourselves **dead to sin but alive to God** in Christ Jesus. (12) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

2) He removed the curse and condemnation of the law - HE HAS TAKEN IT AWAY - PAID IN FULL

- Col 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made you alive with Christ**. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having **canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, [kiv THE HANDWRITING OF ORDINANCES]** which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having **disarmed the powers and authorities**, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
 - There was a custom of running a nail through a debt to prove it has been paid for
 - We sometimes use a receipt holder spike
 - CHRIST nailed our debt to the tree PAID IN FULL

3) He disarmed the powers and authorities ---Col 2:10 He is the head over every power and authority

- He disarmed them (spoiled principalities - stripped them of their armor)
- He made a public spectacle (the triumph was a procession that a victorious general would lead in his home city showing all the vanquished foes)
- He Triumphed over them in the cross - many versions say "by Himself" or "by his Power"

We are complete in Him He has removed from us every obstacle that was against us

- the power of my flesh
- the strength of the law
- the power of the enemy