

# Gospel Identity

## A New Life in Christ

Our new life in Christ is not only something believed, but also something lived, something seen, and something experienced. In fact, Paul frequently uses the term “in Christ”, which means the same thing as being Christian. So a man or woman who is “in Christ” identifies as a Christian. Let’s explore what that means for you and the way you live.

1. In your group share something that you really got into for a while. A hobby, a sport, a band, a video game, a favorite pair of socks. How did that thing also get into you? Or rather, how did it affect your life and things in your life?
2. When did that thing or activity stop being exciting to you?

Let’s discuss the ultimate thing to get “into”. Which is our new life in Christ. Life in Christ means exactly that, you live for Christ.

Christ in your life changes everything....or it should.

In your group read Romans 6:1-11; Romans 8:35-39; Romans 12:4-5; and Ephesians 2:8-10. Then discuss the following questions.

3. According to these passages, what does it mean to be in Christ?
4. What does being in Christ mean to you personally? Why is your life different because of that truth?

Being in relationship with Christ helps us understand the blessings we have in Christ. And understanding those blessings...Really understanding them...frees us to live the kinds of lives God intended for us.

Have some time alone in silence while you look through the blessings list. You don’t have to go far from your group just take 5 minutes to yourself to read over and pray over the list of blessings God has for you. If one catches your attention, then take the time to look it up.

- Redemption (Romans 3:23)
- New Life (Romans 6:11)
- No Condemnation (Romans 8:1)
- Freedom (Galatians 2:4)
- New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Abrahamic Promise (Galatians 3:14)
- Riches of His Grace (Ephesians 2:7)
- Reconciliation (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- Eternal Life (Romans 6:23)
- Love of God (Romans 8:39)
- Sanctified (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- Every Spiritual Blessing (Ephesians 1:3)

- Glorious Riches (Philippians 4:19)
- Heavenly Reward (Philippians 3:14)
- Justified (Galatians 2:17)
- Resurrection (Ephesians 2:6)
- Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32)
- Grace (1 Corinthians 1:4)
- Righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- Eternal Glory (2 Timothy 2:10)
- Holiness (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- One body (Romans 12:5)
- Salvation (2 Timothy 2:10)
- Sonship (Galatians 3:28)

**After you're done reading over the list answer these questions with your group.**

5. Which of these blessings do you find the most meaningful to you right now? And what specifically does it mean to you?
  
6. Which blessings do you find most difficult to accept and why?

**If someone has something they find difficult to accept work it out as a group. It's important you all understand these blessings and own them. If you still have a problem with them, make time to talk to a leader about it this week. Just remember, just because you have a hard time accepting these truths, does not make them any less true. God wants to bless you.**

**You must understand that when you are in Christ you are holy and pleasing to God. Do you not feel holy and pleasing to God? So what! You ARE holy and pleasing because you are in Christ.**

**Look over this last chart. Instead of a weekly challenge, think about how the Christian life is lived out in union with Christ. Don't just glance at this chart either. Instead really take time on each topic. Think about how each one is happening in your life...or not. Then reflect on these question: What is God calling you to do right now? What is one way you can respond to your world right now through your new life in Christ?**

- Speak in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:17)
- Do good works in Christ (Ephesians 2:10)
- Hope in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:19)
- Glory in Christ (Philippians 3:3)
- Work together in Christ (Romans 16:3)
- Marry in Christ (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- Live in Christ (Galatians 2:20)
- Die in Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- Love others in Christ (1 Corinthians 16:24)
- Suffer in Christ (Philemon 1:23)
- Have joy in Christ (Philippians 1:26)
- Give thanks in Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- Live a Godly life in Christ (2 Timothy 3:12)

**As a group read Ephesians 3:14-21**

**Share what God is putting on your heart with your group and then pray for each other in closing.**