

## In Christ

If a person is IN CHRIST, he/she is IN HIS BODY,  
Which is the church of Christ/the kingdom of  
God

One Must be Baptized  
To Get "In Christ"  
Galatians 3:27

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS in heavenly places, IN CHRIST” (Ephesians 1:3)
- “Being justified freely by His grace through the REDEMPTION that is IN CHRIST JESUS” (Romans 3:24)
- “...the gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE through (IN) JESUS CHRIST our Lord” (Romans 6:23)
- “For I am persuaded, that neither death...nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the LOVE OF GOD, which is IN CHRIST JESUS our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39)
- “...that they may also obtain the SALVATION which is IN CHRIST JESUS with eternal glory” (2 Timothy 2:10)
- “...to them that are SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST JESUS, called to be saints...” (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- “There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them which are IN CHRIST JESUS, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1)
- “...that God was IN CHRIST, RECONCILING the world unto Himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19)
- “....forgiving one another, even as God also IN CHRIST FORGAVE you” (Ephesians 4:32)
- “Therefore if any man be IN CHRIST, he is a NEW CREATURE...” (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- “...be strong in the GRACE that is IN CHRIST JESUS” (2 Timothy 2:1)

### One Religious Body

A common question concerning the church is “What difference does it make?” But the fact of the matter is that there is a soul damning difference. The Bible says, “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it” (Psalm 127:1). Even Jesus is quoted as saying, “Every plant which My heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up....” (Matthew 15:13). Every honest individual must conclude from these two verses alone that there are churches that God did not build – meaning that it does matter what church we are a member of.

Jesus prepared His disciples for the day when the kingdom of heaven would come (Matthew 4:17). Later He said He would build His church (Matthew 16:18-19). Paul emphasized that the church or kingdom was also the “*body of Christ*” (Colossians 1:24) over, which Jesus now reigns as king and head (Ephesians 1:22-23). The term “*body*” is a Biblical word that describes the church that Jesus said He would build. Paul states that there is only “*one body*” (Ephesians 4:4), meaning that there is only one God approved religious body – the church of Christ.

Why only the church of Christ? Because Jesus said He would build it, and because He shed His blood for it (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25). The reason that God has authorized only one church to exist is so that it alone could live up to Jesus’ prayer of unity (John 17:20-21). Since religious division is a sin (1 Corinthians 1:10; Galatians 5:20), denominationalism cannot meet the requirements of God (Philippians 2:2; Romans 15:5-6).

Therefore, being “*in Christ*” means being in the one and only religious body – the church of Christ. The apostle Paul when writing to Christians living in the city of Corinth said, “*unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ*” (1 Corinthians 1:2). Concerning the “church of God” there is no doubt that Jesus Christ is God (John 1:1-3, 14), so referring to the church as being “*of God*” or “*of Christ*” means one and the same thing.

Paul said the Christians at Corinth were composed of those “*in Christ*” meaning the “*church*.” Therefore, to be “*in Christ*” means the same as being in His church. Why is it so vital to be “*in Christ*” and His church? Because the church of Christ was planned by God in eternity (Ephesians 3:10-11); purchased at Calvary (Acts 20:28); and is the only religious institution heaven bound (1 Corinthians 15:23-26). Biblical history affirms that God’s blessed grace has always been found in a specific location. When God’s grace saved eight souls from the ravages of a worldwide flood, “*wherein*” were they saved? “*in the ark*” (1 Peter 3:20). When Naaman desired his leprous flesh cleansed by Elisha, he was told “*wherein*” the cleansing would come – “*in the Jordan*” (2 Kings 5:10). Thus it should not amaze anyone that God has so prescribed His blessing of grace today to be found only in the church of Christ.

That is why it makes a BIG difference what church we are a member of! Remember, it is God who said He has placed ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS “*In Christ*” (Ephesians 1:3). The only way for us to reap the benefits of those blessings is to be added to the church of Christ by God (Acts 2:47).