

# 9 'In Christ' Realities

Now let us talk about our true identity. Many people talk about 'finding themselves' where they go through a journey and search deep within. The Bible, as you will discover in many ways, does not go by human wisdom but uses a hidden divine wisdom that is opposite to what we consider as conventional. Jesus said,

*'He who finds his life will lose it and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.'*  
*Matthew 10:39*

It is important to note that we only really know ourselves in relation to God so let's see what Scripture has to say about Him. God said,

*'Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.'*  
*Genesis 1:26*

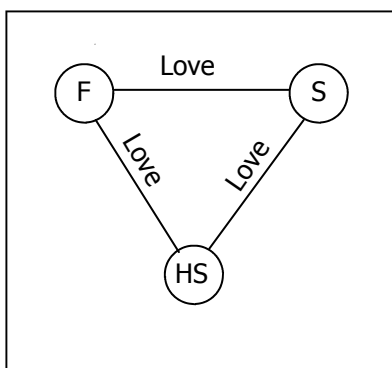
*'Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and all your strength.'*  
*Deuteronomy 6:4,5*

Even though in the day when Moses penned the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch) many people were worshipping multiple 'gods', God made it clear that there was a divine Us yet **only one God**.

This plurality is hinted at as we baptize people,

*'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'*

There are many other references in the New Testament that refer to all three such as,



*'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God (the Father) and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*Amen.'*

2 Corinthians 13:14

and

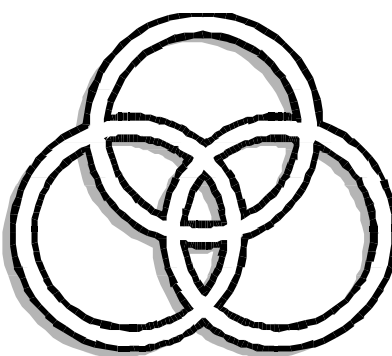
*'For through Him (God the Son) we both have access by one Spirit (God the Holy Spirit) unto the Father (God the Father).'*

Ephesians 2:18

Theologians over the years have called this the Holy Trinity. The Trinity is three persons but **One** God who are co-existent, co-equal and co-eternal. While many metaphors in creation give us some understanding such as water in three forms (liquid, steam and ice) or man made up of body, soul and spirit (yet one person) there is really no adequate way to grasp the Trinity except through illumination of the Holy Spirit and the study of Scripture.

## In Essence

On a functional level (we won't go too deep on this yet) we pray to God the Father, in the name of Jesus (God the Son) and fellowship, commune with and are empowered by God the Holy Spirit.



*'Or do you not know that as many of us were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life.'*

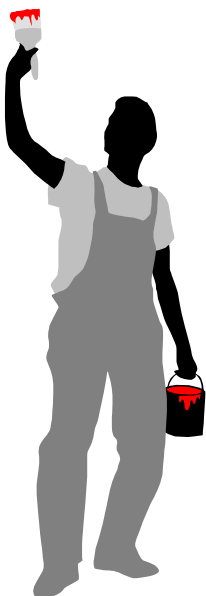
*Romans 6:3, 4*

*'If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation, old things pass away, behold all things have become new.'*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

### **Back to us ...**

When we were baptised into Christ we were baptised into His death. This means that Jesus just didn't take our sins to the cross, He also took our old sinful nature. Jesus had to go through a death to experience



a resurrection and so do we. Our death is a death to our old life, wrong thinking and sinful habits.

It is a supernatural fact before God that if anyone is *in Christ* they are dead to themselves and alive to God. You see your old sinful nature could not be regenerated (it was so corrupted it just would be like painting over rust) that God said will He would kill off the old nature through the cross and give you a completely new nature. This new nature is in Jesus. When we want to access all the blessings and benefits of the cross we need to know that everything is now *in Christ*.

You still retain your personality and uniqueness however you now partake of His victory on the cross as well as His divine nature.

*'Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life.'*

*John 14:6*

He didn't say that He would point to the way...He is The Way. He didn't say that He would tell us about the truth, He is The Truth. He didn't say He would lead us to

*'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.'*

*Ephesians 1:3*

where the life is, He is The Life. The embodiment of all these are found in one person...Jesus Christ of Nazareth.


With this in mind you will find throughout the letters of Paul (very mystical teachings written after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven) phrases such as *in Christ, through Christ, in Him, for Him, etc;* these are what we call **'In-Christ realities'**.

Let me give you one example. Many new Christians wonder if they deserve the blessing of God considering some of the things they have done. This is where someone needs to know *what they already have in Christ*. Throughout Scripture it is revealed that if we forgive others from our heart and ask God to forgive us our sins, no matter what we have done, we are completely forgiven.

Then we read,  
*'All blessings (everything you could possibly ever need) are ... in Christ'* (Ephesians 1:3).

## What if I sin?

Sometimes in our Christian walk we find that we do things we know we shouldn't do and say things we shouldn't say. Occasionally Christians might struggle with issues they had prior to conversion. God is one step ahead of us...He has already made full provision before we were even born. You see you are fully forgiven in Christ of all sins, past,



**'Knowing** this, that our old man was crucified with Him (Jesus), that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Now if we died with Christ we believe that we shall also live with Him (walk in newness of life)...

Likewise you also, **reckon** (old English word for consider or to count) yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And do not present your body as an instrument of unrighteousness to sin but **present** yourselves to God as being alive from the dead and your body as an instrument of righteousness.'

*Romans 6:6,7,8,11,13*

present and future. Continued sin will just impede our spiritual growth.

Some Christians also thought that if they are forgiven for everything then they might as well sin whenever they want and God will forgive them any way...

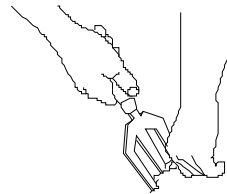
Paul said,

*'God forbid'*

*Romans 6:2*

*'For God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap'*

Sowing and reaping is an unalterable natural and spiritual law that will always apply to our lives. If we continually eat junk food our health will suffer, if we keep committing crime we might end up in jail, if we feed ourselves on violent videos we could struggle with anger. If we keep sowing seeds of sin we will reap consequences.



It is important to know absolutely for sure that if you sincerely repent and ask forgiveness, God will **always** forgive you; you will just reap a harvest from the seeds you have sown. If you want a different harvest, start sowing good seeds!

Remember that God has already made provision for all of this through the cross and this is how we apply it. The three key words are **knowing**, **reckoning** and **presenting**.

If you follow these three steps your life will change dramatically. This is not any new set of laws it is a practical application of a supernatural reality which we apply by faith. In essence whatever you feed will live (focus, meditate and practice) and whatever you starve (ignore, reject, repent of) will die. These are the steps necessary to walk in the supernatural power of God.

Read Colossians 3:8-10, 14 it is the same principle but instead commands us to put off and to put on.

Christians can still sin if they choose to however, through the cross, it has lost its power over us if this principle is applied. Gravity is real and affects our lives whether we acknowledge it or not. The law of sin and death is the same. Whenever we get in a plane we tap into the superior law of aerodynamic uplift and completely overcome the restraints of gravity. The



When eagles stretch out their wings when flying into a storm they go higher and higher. God has called you and I to soar like eagles... He has invited us to explore all the possible supernatural dimensions in Christ. Will you accept His invitation?



*'But those who wait upon the Lord (a quiet, still meditation) shall renew their strength. **They shall mount up with wings like eagles**, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.'*

Isaiah 40:31

***Some scriptures to write down, memorize and meditate on...***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17
- Galatians 2:20
- Ephesians 1:3,4,7,10
- Philippians 4:13
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Romans 8:37-39

## Questions

1. What do you think Matthew 10:39 means?

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2. The three in Oneness of God is called what?

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3. To go into a new life (resurrection) what must a person pass through?

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4. When the Bible says we have become new creations what part of us do you think has become new (2 Cor. 5:17)?

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5. What do you think it means that God has blessed us 'in Christ'?

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6. What are the three keys words from Romans 6?

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7. Why do you think they are important?

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8. Why shouldn't we go on sinning?

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