

^aAn Eternal Family in Christ



- Today I want to talk about what it means to be ^bin Christ, or in Jesus, or in Him. This is a very common expression, but what does it really mean to be in Christ Jesus?
- A few years ago, I was reading the epistle to the Ephesians, and I noticed the exceptionally large quantity of “in Him” statements. This made me stop to ponder the meaning, and ever since this discovery, it has been probably the single most impactful revelation I have experienced to date.
- Once you understand this concept, it will unlock the entire plan and will of God.
- So many people ask what the will of God is for their life. The answer is simple, and it is found in Him.
- Our text verse today is ^c1 John 5:10-11, but we will be going thru a lot of scripture to get the concept of what it means to be in Him.

¹ John 5:10-11-¹⁰ He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; ... ¹¹ And this is the witness: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

- All thru the Bible we see these types of statements. An amazing promise followed by “in Him, or through Him”
 - Why did God place these promises in Christ?
 - Why did the Father create the universe through Jesus?
 - This is what we will be discussing today
- Why does God want to give us eternal life? So He can have an eternal family that loves Him.
- This is God’s desire, His will is that all men might be saved, ¹Tim 2:4.
- Unfortunately, not all men will be saved because not everyone will choose Him, ^{Matt 7:13-14}. God has given us free will to choose Him. Without free will, there is no love, and God wants an eternal family who loves Him.
- The concept of being in Christ goes far deeper than just us living with Him. This is our abode. As Jesus says in the Gospel of John:

^dJohn 15:4 **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it **abides in the vine**, neither can you, unless you **abide in Me**.

- As I began to study the scriptures and meditate on the idea of abiding in Him, I realized it isn’t just us who is in Him, but absolutely everything from the Father is in and through Jesus. I would continue to read scripture about the wonderful things the Father has for us and then the curious statement would follow, “in Him”. For example:

^eEphesians 1:3- 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,

- I quickly realized this concept is more than just putting myself in Jesus. As I read and understood the scriptures, I began to see the plan and will of God for mankind develop. And I noticed that every good and precious promise that was promised to us, was placed in Christ.
- Our righteousness, salvation, redemption, His grace, the promise of eternal life, our blessings, our abundance, our inheritance... it was all placed in Christ before the world began.
- This wasn’t a change in course because Adam sinned. No, God knew Adam would sin far before he created mankind. Before the foundation of the earth, the Father established His plan for man, including the plan of redemption. And the key, the common element to make it all work is that it was done in Jesus.

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

1 Peter 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

8 Revelation 13:8 ... in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

- The redemptive act of the Lamb slain was established **in Him** before the foundation of the world, **1 Pet 1:20, Rev 13:8**.
- The entire purpose and will of God is that He would have an eternal family who freely chooses to love Him, **1 Tim 2:4, 2Pet 3:9, Jn 3:16-17**. This is God's desire.
- The Father is Holy and Righteous and there is no sin in Him and sin cannot exist in His presence, **1 Jn 1:5**. Therefore, the only Way the Father could have His eternal family of those who freely choose Him and love Him is to place those who choose Him **in His Beloved Son**.

A Covenant between the Father and Jesus



- God knew man would fail, so He placed all His goodness and grace and His salvation **in Jesus** as a permanent holding place where it would never be lost. Everything the Father has for us is **in Jesus**. This is why to be saved and become a Christian, we must believe **in Jesus**. Our faith **in Jesus** unlocks all the blessings the Father has for us and He did this so our salvation would be secure.
- This new covenant is not between us and God. If it was, we would blow it and the covenant would be of no effect. This new covenant had to be sure and eternal, so He made the covenant with Jesus. Now this covenant is eternal, and we can participate in the covenant thru inheritance by being **in Him**.
- Paul explains this in his letter to the Galatians:

^hGalatians 3:16-17-¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "*And to your **Seed,** who is Christ.*" ¹⁷ And this I say, *that* the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God **in Christ...**

- God made a covenant with Abraham, and confirmed it **in Christ**
- God put Abraham to sleep and walked between the halves, Gen 15:17-20.

Galatians 3:8 And the Scripture, ... 'preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying...

Genesis 22:18 ... **In your Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ..."**

- The Scripture, this is Jesus, proclaimed the gospel, the good news of the reconciliation of man thru Jesus to Abraham.

ⁱAn Eternal Inheritance thru the Promise of the Spirit



- We know the promises made to Abraham included wealth, blessings and most importantly the coming of the Messiah
- But there was a Promise made to the Seed as well

¹ Preached the Gospel in advance- προευγγελισατο- pro-euangelisato

Galatians 3:19 ... till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made...

- The promise of eternal life through the Spirit was given to the Seed, who is Jesus.

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father, the Promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Jesus was given the promise of eternal life and an eternal inheritance of all those who would believe in Him by receiving the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Colossians 1:12- giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Hebrews 1:2- has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- The Father desired to have an eternal family, and Jesus, fulfilling the will of the Father, humbled Himself to His will, **Philippians 2:6-11**, **Psalm 16:10-11**.
 - Jesus went to the cross fully expectant in the promise of eternal life through the Holy Spirit from the Father.
 - Jesus had faith in the Father that the power of the Holy Spirit would raise Him from the dead.
 - But He didn't go to the cross for Himself.
 - He did it out of love for the Father and us.
 - He carried out the will of the Father, so He might reconcile man to the Eternal Family **in Christ**
- The Holy Spirit was promised to and **in Christ**
 - This is why the Comforter couldn't come while Jesus was on the earth. Because the promise of the Spirit was promised to Jesus, and Jesus then gave the Spirit to those who believe, **John 16:7**.

1 John 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments **abides in Him**, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

1 Ephesians 2:13 But now **in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by **in the blood of Christ**.

- Therefore, Jesus received the glory of the Father, the promise of eternal life thru the Spirit, as an inheritance when He offered His blood in the Holy of Holies not made with hands in heaven, **1 Pet 1:18-21**, **Heb 9:11-15**
- and then thru His High Priestly ministry, gave the promise of the Holy Spirit to all those who would believe in Him, **Ezekiel 46:16**
- And this is the key to eternal life. The way to access the promise of eternal life is to be **in Jesus** because **in Him** is life and we can only access this life **in Him**, **Jn 1:4**.

It was the Father's Good Pleasure that **In Jesus** all fullness should dwell



- All that the Father made was created **through Jesus** and for Jesus. All of His goodness, grace, blessings, and the predestined redemption of mankind was placed **in Jesus Christ** before the foundation of the world.

^mColossians 1:16-17

¹⁶So that, **In Him**, **the all** was created. **The all** in the heavens and **the all** upon the earth, **the all** invisible and **the all** visible. Whether thrones, whether lordships, whether principles or beginnings, whether authorities. **The all** was created **through Him and for Him**. ¹⁷ And He is before, previous of **all**, and the **all in Him** are held and stand together.

Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁶ ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη **τὰ πάντα**, **τὰ** ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς καὶ **τὰ** ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὰ ὀρατὰ καὶ **τὰ** ἀόρατα, εἴτε θρόνοι, εἴτε κυριότητες, εἴτε ἀρχαὶ, εἴτε ἐξουσίαι· **τὰ πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ** καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν ἐκτίσται· ¹⁷ καὶ αὐτός ἐστι πρὸ **πάντων**, καὶ **τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ** συνέστηκε.

- 35 times in the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul writes **in Him**...

Ephesians 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful **in Christ Jesus**:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 should be holy and without blame before Him **in love**,

5*** having predestined us to adoption as sons **by through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to **the good pleasure of His will**, (God did not predetermine some to eternal life and some to eternal death. The plan of an eternal family in Jesus is what was predestined, not the individual person.)

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted **in the Beloved**.

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

8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

9*** having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to **His good pleasure** which He purposed **in Himself**, (the Greek text says in **Him**, ἐν αὐτῷ, not in **Himself**, ἐν ἑαυτῷ)

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—**in Him**.

11*** **In Him** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the **purpose of Him** who works the all according to the counsel of **His will**,

12 that we who first trusted **in Christ** should be to the praise of His glory.

13 **In Him** you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; **in whom** also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith **in the Lord Jesus** and your love for all the saints,

16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
20 which He worked **in Christ** when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
22 And He put the all **things** under His feet, and gave Him to be head over the all **things** to the church,
23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 2

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together **with Christ** (by grace you have been saved),
6*** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**,
7*** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us **in Christ Jesus**.
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
10*** For we are His workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—
12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
13 But now **in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near **by in the blood of Christ**.
14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,
15*** having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create **in Himself** one new man from the two, thus making peace,
16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity (**in Him- ἐν αὐτῷ**)- English doesn't include in Him at the end
17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.
18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.
19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,
21*** **in Whom** the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple **in the Lord**,
22*** **in Whom** you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God **in the Spirit**.

Ephesians 3

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—
2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,
4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),
5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:
6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

9 and to make all see what is the **fellowship** of the mystery, which **from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ**;

10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

11*** according to the **eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**,

12*** **in whom** we have boldness and access with confidence through faith **in Him**.

13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

19 **to know the love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

21*** to Him be glory in the church **in Christ Jesus** to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion



- In conclusion, the Father's deepest desire and will for mankind is that all would choose His Son **in Whom** He has placed all His fullness of grace, mercy, love, blessing, and abundance.
- The Father has given us eternal life **in His Son**, we only need to accept this free gift of grace and abide **in Jesus** to receive these eternal blessings the Father has stored up for us since before the foundation of the world, **Col 1:5, 19-20**.

ⁿColossians 1:19-20-¹⁹ For it **pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell**, ²⁰ and **through Him** to reconcile the all to Himself, **by Him**, whether the all on earth or the all in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19-¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone **is in Christ**, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, the all have become new. ¹⁸ But the all who have come out of God, of the **reconciliation** of us to Himself **through Jesus Christ**, also He has given to us the ministry of **reconciliation**, ¹⁹ that is, that God was **in Christ reconciling** the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has placed in us the word of **reconciliation**.

1 John 5:11-13-¹¹ And this is the witness: that **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son**. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may *continue to believe* in the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:20- And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are **in the Truth, in the Son of Him, Jesus Christ**. This is the true God and the Life forever.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me you may have peace**. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

°John 17:20-23-²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe **in Me** through their word; ²¹ that they all may be **one**, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be **one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be **one** just as We are **one**: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one...

This is how we know that we are in Him

1 John 4:15- Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and **he in God**.

¶Five Closing Statements in Summary

- For it was the Father's good pleasure to reconcile His eternal family to Himself **in Christ**, Col 1:19-20, 2Cor 5:17-19.
- That all who are **in Christ** are redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus, 1Pet 1:18-19.
- To give all those who believe **in Jesus** eternal life **in His Son**, 1 Jn 5:11-13, 20; Jn 3:16-17.
- To give peace with God to all those who are **in Jesus**, Jn 16:33.
- And that all who believe **in Jesus** may be One **in the Father and the Son**, an eternal family **in Him**, Jn 17:20-23.

