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[In Christ - To Be In Christ And How It Is Accomplished?](#)



By Dan Maines

**To Be In Christ And How It Is Accomplished?**

## Introduction

† To be in Christ is covenant language, not mystical language, it's about identity, not location, moving from Adam into Christ within the time frame the apostles were living in (1 Corinthians 15:22, Matthew 24:34)

† The New Testament doesn't present being in Christ as something delayed or future, it was something being

accomplished and brought to completion in their generation (Ephesians 1:10, Hebrews 9:26)

† The apostles define exactly what it means and how it happens, through His death, resurrection, and the end of the old covenant world (Romans 6:3-5, Hebrews 8:13)

## **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

† Being in Christ means being part of the new creation, not a physical change, but a covenant change where the old covenant identity passed away (2 Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 8:13)

† The old things are the law, the system, the separation, all of that was removed in Christ (Colossians 2:14, Ephesians 2:15)

† This passing away was tied to the end of that age, which Jesus said would happen in that generation (Matthew 24:3, Matthew 24:34)

## **Romans 6:3-5**

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

† Being in Christ is accomplished by being united with His death and resurrection, this is covenant participation, not physical burial (Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12)

† Baptism is the identification with His death, leaving the old man and entering the new covenant life (Galatians 2:20, Colossians 2:12)

† The resurrection life is the new covenant life that replaced the old system that was ready to vanish (Hebrews 8:13, Hebrews 10:9)

### **John 14:6**

Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

† Being in Christ is exclusive, there is no other way to enter, no law, no system, no alternative path, only through Him (John 14:6, Hebrews 10:19-20)

† This confirms that access to the Father is only through Christ, meaning being in Him is the only way to have covenant relationship with God (Ephesians 2:18, John 10:1)

† This ended the old covenant approach and established Christ as the only entrance (Hebrews 8:13, Galatians 3:24-25)

### **Acts 4:12**

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved."

† Salvation and being in Christ are inseparable, you cannot have one without the other (Acts 4:12, Romans 8:1)

† This eliminates all other claims, systems, and identities, only Christ brings salvation and placement into Him (John 1:12-13, Galatians 2:16)

† This was being preached as a present reality in their time, not something future (Acts 2:38-39, Hebrews 9:26)

## **John 10:9**

I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

† Christ is the door, meaning He is the point of entry into life, covenant, and salvation (John 10:9, John 14:6)

† Entering through Him is how one becomes in Him, there is no other entrance (Matthew 7:13-14, Ephesians 2:18)

† This again shows exclusivity, one door, one way, one covenant identity (Ephesians 4:4-6, Acts 4:12)

## **Romans 10:9**

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

† This shows the response, belief and confession, not works of the law, is how one enters into Christ (Romans 10:9, Galatians 2:16)

† Faith in the risen Christ is what joins a person to Him, placing them in His life (Romans 6:5, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

† This was the message preached during that transition period as people were coming out of the old covenant (Acts 16:30-31, Hebrews 9:15)

## **John 11:25**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies,

† Life is found in Christ alone, to believe in Him is to enter into that life (John 11:25, 1 John 5:11-12)

† This ties directly to being in Christ as the place where life exists, outside of Him there is only death (1 Corinthians 15:22, Romans 8:2)

† This again confirms that the transition from death to life is through Him, not through law or flesh (Galatians 3:21-22, Hebrews 10:10)

### **1 John 2:23**

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

† Being in Christ is directly tied to acknowledging and confessing Him, denial excludes a person from that covenant relationship (1 John 2:23, John 5:23)

† This shows that access to the Father is only through the Son, confirming again the exclusive nature of being in Christ (John 14:6, Ephesians 2:18)

† This was critical in their time as the line between old covenant Judaism and Christ was being fully separated (1 John 2:18-19, Hebrews 8:13)

### **1 Corinthians 15:22**

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

† There are only two identities, in Adam or in Christ, one tied to death, the other to life (1 Corinthians 15:22, Romans 5:18)

† To be in Christ is to be removed from Adamic death and placed into covenant life (Romans 5:19, Romans 8:2)

† This change was completed when death was swallowed up in victory at the end of that age (1 Corinthians 15:54, Hebrews 9:28)

## **Galatians 3:27-29**

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

† Being in Christ means putting Him on, taking on His identity, replacing all former covenant distinctions (Galatians 3:27, Ephesians 4:24)

† The Jew and Gentile division was removed, proving this is about covenant identity, not physical categories (Ephesians 2:14-16, Colossians 3:11)

† In Christ, the promises to Abraham are fulfilled, not through flesh, but through Him (Galatians 3:29, Romans 9:6-8)

## **Ephesians 1:9-10**

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him, regarding His plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

† God's plan was to gather all things into Christ at the fullness of their time, not ours (Ephesians 1:10, Galatians 4:4)

† Being in Christ is the result of that gathering, heaven and earth brought into one covenant reality (Hebrews 12:22-23, Ephesians 2:19)

† This happened exactly when Jesus said it would, within that generation (Matthew 16:27-28, Matthew 24:34)

## **1 Corinthians 12:13**

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made

to drink of one Spirit.

† This shows exactly how they were placed into Christ, by one Spirit into one body, not by physical means, but by covenant incorporation (1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:4-6)

† This confirms being in Christ is identical to being in His body, the church, not something separate or mystical (Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18)

† This was happening in their time as the body was being formed and brought to completion (Ephesians 2:16, Hebrews 12:23)

### **Colossians 1:13**

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

† This shows it already happened for them, they were already transferred into Christ's kingdom, not waiting for it (Colossians 1:13, Luke 17:20-21)

† Being in Christ equals being in the kingdom, and that kingdom was present in their lifetime (Matthew 16:28, Mark 9:1)

† This destroys any idea that being in Christ is something future or incomplete (Hebrews 12:28, Matthew 24:34)

### **Ephesians 2:5-6**

even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

† Being in Christ means being made alive, raised, and seated with Him, this is covenant status, not physical relocation

(Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1-3)

† This proves the position was already given, not something we wait to receive after death (Ephesians 1:3, Hebrews 10:14)

† This ties directly to the completed work of Christ and the end of the old covenant separation (Ephesians 2:13-16, Hebrews 9:8)

## **Historical References**

† Irenaeus taught that Christ summed up all things in Himself, showing the unity brought through Him (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.18.1)

† Eusebius connected the destruction of Jerusalem with the fulfillment of Christ's words and the end of the old system (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5)

† Josephus recorded the fall of Jerusalem in detail, confirming the historical fulfillment of that generation's judgment (Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.4-5)

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Being in Christ means we live in the finished new covenant, not waiting for it, it's already established (Hebrews 10:14, Colossians 1:13)

† We are not under law, condemnation, or separation, those things ended with the old covenant (Romans 8:1, Ephesians 2:15)

† Our identity is fully in Christ, not in Adam, not in sin, but in righteousness and life (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 6:11)

† We live from that completed work, not striving to enter it, but walking in what has already been fulfilled (Ephesians 2:6, Hebrews 12:28)

## **Q&A Appendix**

**Q** What does it mean to be in Christ?

**A** It means to be part of the new creation where the old covenant has passed away, 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Q** How is someone placed in Christ?

**A** By being united with His death and resurrection, Romans 6:3-5

**Q** Is being in Christ something future?

**A** No, it was fulfilled in their generation, Matthew 24:34

**Q** Does being in Christ remove the law?

**A** Yes, the law was taken away and fulfilled, Hebrews 8:13

**Q** Are we still in Adam?

**A** No, in Christ we are made alive, 1 Corinthians 15:22

**Q** Does being in Christ mean we physically go somewhere?

**A** No, it is a covenant position and identity, not a physical location, Ephesians 2:6

**Q** Is being in Christ something we grow into over time?

**A** No, it is a completed covenant position, they were already made complete in Him, Colossians 2:10

**Q** Does water baptism place someone in Christ?

**A** No, it represents identification, but being placed in Christ is by the Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:13

**Q** Can someone be in Christ and still be under the law?

**A** No, being in Christ means the law has been removed,

## Galatians 5:18

**Q** Is being in Christ the same as being in the kingdom?

**A** Yes, they were already transferred into the kingdom,  
Colossians 1:13

**Q** Does being in Christ mean sin no longer exists?

**A** No, but it means we are no longer under its condemnation,  
Romans 8:1

**Q** Is being in Christ based on physical lineage?

**A** No, it is not by flesh, but by promise through Christ, Romans  
9:6-8

**Q** Were Old Testament believers in Christ?

**A** No, they were looking forward to Him, but the reality came in  
the fullness of time, Galatians 4:4

**Q** Does being in Christ mean we become Christ?

**A** No, we take on His identity and righteousness, but we do not  
become Him, 2 Corinthians 5:21

**Q** Is being in Christ something that can be lost?

**A** No, it is part of the completed work of Christ, Hebrews 10:14

**Q** Does being in Christ mean we are physically in heaven now?

**A** No, it is a covenant position, not a physical location,  
Ephesians 2:6

These fit perfectly with what you already built and hit the exact  
questions people always throw out.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled  
Prophecies †**

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## Source Index

† 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:3-5, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, John 10:9, Romans 10:9, John 11:25, 1 John 2:23, 1 Corinthians 15:22, Galatians 3:27-29, Ephesians 1:9-10, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Colossians 1:13, Ephesians 2:5-6, Hebrews 8:13, Matthew 24:3, Matthew 24:34, Colossians 2:14, Ephesians 2:15, Galatians 2:20, Hebrews 10:9, Romans 5:18-19, Romans 8:2, 1 Corinthians 15:54, Hebrews 9:28, Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 3:11, Romans 9:6-8, Galatians 4:4, Hebrews 12:22-23, Ephesians 2:19, Matthew 16:27-28, Luke 17:20-21, Mark 9:1, Hebrews 12:28, Colossians 3:1-3, Ephesians 1:3, Hebrews 10:14, Ephesians 2:13-16, Hebrews 9:8, Romans 8:1, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 6:11, Ephesians 2:6

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.18.1; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.4-5

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