

"In Christ" - II Corinthians 5:17 (No More Separation)

Once a human enters the "arena" of "in Christ", everything is different. The arena is the place where the action takes place. It is the sphere of activity - all that is done in this realm will be compatible with His nature. It is, in fact, a realm transfer, a relocation... we are swept into as new world (II Cor 5:17). We are now in the place of living oneness with God (and each other), in the place of complete liberation, in the place of personal transformation, in the place of interpersonal participation.

Being in Christ is locational - we are present where Christ is ("seated in the heavenlies with Him"), He is present where we are ("I will never leave you..."). It is relational - we have entered into the love affair between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is existential - our very beingness has changed ("...he is a new creation"). It is actual - no more imputation, but a personal impartation of God's life into ours.

To be "in Christ" has indicative connotations: it defines who we are and what we have. To be "in the Lord" has imperative implications: it describes what we do because of who we are and what we have. (What God has joined together, let no man put asunder!) It is never a union between equals, not an essential oneness - we are not absorbed into the Divine. He is the Creator, we the creatures. He is the Master, we the servants. He is the Teacher, we the disciples. He is the Head, we the body.

Perhaps the key thought underlying every idea behind being "in Christ" is this: IN CHRIST, ALL DISTANCE DISAPPEARS... THERE IS NO MORE SEPARATION! Listen to John 17:24, "...that they may be with Me where I am." Or, John 14:3, "...I will receive you to Myself." Herein is God's ultimate intention for those made in His image - that we would be brought into the eternal embrace of an indivisible union of lovers! Or, as Dame Julian of Norwich so succinctly put it, "Betwixt God and me there is no between."

"In Christ" is the starting point for all things Christian (see Ro 3:24). The redemptive, saving, life-giving activity of God is only in Christ. When we believe into Christ, we are transferred into Him and His work for us and in us, rendering us entirely new creatures... someone not there previously! Once ungodly, sinful, condemned, dead in sins... we are now godly, righteous, justified, and alive... "in Christ".

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Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



👏 **GREETINGS** 👏

Thank you so much for all the notes, cards and expressions of encouragement and support. While certain aspects of our "wild ride" in September and October have been resolved or lessened considerably, as you all know about life in a fallen realm... "stuff happens!"

First some updates:

- Gabe is healing up nicely from a slight hip fracture and strained ligaments
- My biopsy reports all came back clear
- We do have running water, a working dryer and television again
- God graciously provides what we need (when we need it!)

We're getting bids on the roof, Ella has been "down in the back" (probably from the extra lifting on Gabe) but is improving as of this writing, the Colorado and New York meetings went very well, and CCF is humming right along! Again, thanks for all your loving touches - even from afar.

Don't wait too late to make reservations for our Florida retreat in February. Last year we used every room allotted to us for our out of town guests. Would love to see some of you who've been talking about joining us!

Have a joy-filled Thanksgiving - we are so grateful for each and every one of you!

✍️ **CALENDAR** ✍️

NOVEMBER	
1,8,22,29	CCF
10	Alachua Study
15	Orlando, FL
DECEMBER	
1	Ocala Study - Note change
JANUARY	
29-31	San Antonio, TX (210-478-0618)
FEBRUARY	
12-14	Florida Retreat

♥️ **PRAISE and PRAYER** ✝️

- ♥️ For life "in Christ"
- ♥️ For friends and family
- ✝️ Grateful hearts for gracious gifts
- ✝️ Renewed joy of our oneness with God

🌴 **Florida Retreat** 🌴

February 12 - 14, 2016
\$50 deposit Due January 30th, 2016
 \$290 Couple - (meals and room)
 \$160 Single - 2 to room (meals and room)
 \$70 conference and meals (no room)
 (for further details call 386-418-0913 or email OICnewsletter@gmail.com)