

The Community of the Church

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Imagine what life would be like if there was no hope of salvation? What greater hope exist except for the hope of the Christian faith? The reason for our hope is the object of our faith which is Jesus Christ!

Every promise of God is ours in Christ: forgiveness of sin; deliverance from sin's power; acceptance in God's kingdom, and victory over death – eternal life in the new heaven and the new earth!

Let's consider the riches of our community in Christ: what God makes us in Christ; what God gives us together in Community in Christ; and what God has for us in the eternal future.

What God Makes Us in Christ.

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

The power of Jesus' salvation is in who He is. He is the Son of God! His divine power was evidenced in His miracles and by His power over demonic spirits. Finally, the greatest witness of all, was His resurrection.

You can lay a flower on the grave where they laid 'ole Buddha down. You can hear Mohammad's children pray to His bones in the ground, but journey to Jerusalem to a graveyard if you dare and look for Jesus' body but there ain't no body there. (Gold City)

- The wages of sin is death. Born in sin, every person stands guilty before God.
- Jesus' death provides atonement for sin and justification unto righteousness.

In Christ, we see the boundless love and the wisdom of God. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and He became man (flesh) so that He could redeem us from sin.

Romans 5:18–19 ¹⁸ So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

All who are redeemed by the death of Jesus Christ are no longer in Adam but in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

In Christ God makes us a new creation. He makes us righteous. He accepts us into His family, and by His Holy Spirit, we are baptized (placed) into the church. He calls us out of this world into His holy community – the community of the church.

Read: 1 Cor. 6:9-11 "Such were some of you." *(the example of God's grace, the power of Christ's salvation, and the coming into a holy community is exemplified in the Corinthian Church.*

What God Gives Us in Community in Christ.

1 John 1:3 What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

That which was proclaimed by the apostles was the gospel, by which we are saved and brought into the Christian Community where we share fellowship with each other in the fellowship we have with God the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ!

In the Christian Community we share in all **the Spiritual blessings** which come from heaven: access to God in prayer; the presence of God through His Holy Spirit; revelation of truth; the gift of wisdom and understanding.

In the Christian Community we can lay claim to all the promises of God:

- James 5:14-16 Healing and forgiveness.
- Mt. 18:20 The presence of Jesus Christ.
- Mt. 18:19 Answered Prayers

In the Christian Community we share the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

True love for one another is the evidence of true kinship in Christ.

1 John 3:14 ¹⁴ If we love other Christians, it proves that we have been delivered from hell and given eternal life. But a person who doesn't have love for others is headed for eternal death.

The love of God is genuine; it is strong; it is enduring; and it fosters unity – the unity of the Holy Spirit.

God work in us and through us and among us in His Church.

- God loves through us.
- God comforts through us.
- God encourages through us.
- God protects through us by our accountability to each another.

We are not traveling this way alone. We don't have to do life alone. God has given us the gift of the church – the gift of Christian community.

What God has for Us in Heaven.

Revelation 21:3–5

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

These things are sure, and no one can take them away from us who are in Christ!!!

John 10:27–29 ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.