

The Sphere of Blessing Ephesians 1:3

Introduction: L.S. Chafer ~ “who can begin to imagine the mighty transformation that would take place in poor, distraught, divided Christendom if suddenly all the confusion and obscurity were torn away, and the full blaze and full-orbed glory of the truth of every Christian’s oneness in Christ by the baptizing work of the Spirit burst upon the consciousness of all God’s people?”

I. The presentation of “in Christ” truth- John 14:16-20; John 17:1-26

- A. Tied to the ascension of Christ and the sending of the Holy Spirit- “He (Spirit) abides with you and will be in you” 14:17
- B. Future- “in that day you will know...you in Me, and I in you.” 14:20

II. The provision for the “in Christ” relationship- I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:1-3; Ephesians 4:4-6

- A. Unique to this age- Acts 1:5; 11:16
- B. Punctiliar- Romans 6:3-6 cf. Galatians 2:20
- C. Eternal- (Perfect tense as found in Galatians 2:20)
- D. Universal of all who believe- I Corinthians 12:13
- E. Not merited (Passive voice of Galatians 2:20)
- F. Not experiential- “No sensation whereby it may be identified”
- G. Apprehended by faith -

III. The place of the believer “in Christ”

- A. Place of new identification (I Corinthians 15:22)
 - 1. Crucified with Christ- Galatians 2:20
 - 2. Buried with Christ- Colossians 2:12
 - 3. Raised with Christ- Romans 6:4
 - 4. Seated with Christ- Ephesians 2:6
- B. Place of new associations
 - 1. With the Father- Ephesians 2:1-6; John 17:23
 - 2. With the Son- John 15:1-5
 - 3. With other believers- Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:13; John 17:21-23
 - 4. With Satan- Romans 6
 - 5. With the world - John 14:18-19; 17:14
- C. Place of new motivation- Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:12-14
 - 1. Faith not fear
 - 2. Grace not law
 - 3. Christ not self

Conclusion: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in Me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Questions for discussion/application

- Why is it so important to understand the connection between the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and being “in Christ”?
- **True or false (discuss)** One’s practice never changes one’s position, but understanding one’s position drastically impacts one’s practice. What proof from Scripture would you give for your answer?
- If you were asked to describe what it means to be “in Christ” to a new believer, what would you tell them?
- How should a correct understanding of “in Christ” truth greatly impact the interaction between believers in the local church?
- Discuss the significance of being “seated us with Him in the heavenlies”. Ephesians 2:6