

Our Gracious Provisions in Christ! Ephesians 1:3

Introduction: God created us as relational beings. We see this in God's own words in Genesis 2:18. In the fall our every relationship was impacted negatively. By God's grace, through our identification with Christ, our every relationship is immediately and forever changed! This is one of the most under-appreciated aspect of our being "in Christ".

I. The sphere of new associations

A. What our associations **were**

1. With the Father
 - a) Enmity- Ephesians 2:11-12; James 4:4
 - b) Wrath- Ephesians 2:3
 - c) Separation- Ephesians 2:1
2. With the Son -John 15:18-19
3. With the Spirit
 - a) Conviction- John 16:8-11
 - b) Restraining- 2 Thess. 2:6-10
4. With the Devil
 - a) Slavery- Romans 6:17; 20
 - b) Co-workers- Ephesians 2:1-3
5. With the World
 - a) Darkness- 2 Corinthians 6:14
 - b) Citizens Of the world (not just in it)
6. With other believers (Ephesians 2:11-22)
 - a) Strangers
 - b) Aliens
 - c) Far off
 - d) Enmity

B. What our associations **are**

1. With the Father
 - a) Sons- Eph.1:5; Romans 8:15
 - b) Eternal life- John 17:3
 - c) Love- John 17:23; Romans 8:38-39
2. With the Son
 - a) Advocacy- I John 2:1-2
 - b) Intimacy- the bride of Christ- John 14:1-6; Ephesians 5:22-33
 - c) Indwelling- "I in you"- John 14:20
 - (1) "The hope of glory"- Colossians 1:27
 - (2) "Partakers of the divine nature"- II Peter 1:3-4
 - d) Fellowship- "Abiding" - John 15:1-5; I John 1:3
3. With the Spirit
 - a) Intercessor- Romans 8:26-27
 - b) Indwelling- I Corinthians 6:19
 - c) Filling- Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16;18;22
4. With the Devil
 - a) Freedom- Romans 6:6; 16-18; 22
 - b) Enmity- Ephesians 6:11-12
5. With the world
 - a) In the world, not of the world - John 17:14-16

- b) Enemies- II Corinthians 6:15
- c) Sojourners- I Peter 2:11
- d) Light- Ephesians 5:8
- e) Citizens of heaven- Philippians 3:20-21
- f) Translated into the kingdom of His Son- Colossians 1:13

6. With other believers

- a) Brothers and sisters- Phil. 4:1; Romans 12:5;10
- b) Equality- Galatians 3:28
- c) One body- Ephesians 4:1-6; I Corinthians 12-14

C. What our associations **will be**

- 1. With the Godhead- I Thess. 4:13-18
- 2. With the Devil- Revelation 20:10
- 3. With the world- Revelation 20:11-15
- 4. With other believers- I Thess. 4:17

II. The sphere of new motivations- Galatians 2:19-21

A. What our motivation **was**

- 1. Law
- 2. Fear
- 3. Self preservation

B. What our motivation **is**

- 1. Grace
- 2. Faith
- 3. Love

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."

"My crucifixion- I have been crucified with Christ

My resurrection- It is no longer I who live

My substitution- but Christ lives in me

My obligation- and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God

My motivation- who loved me and gave Himself up for me." ~ Pastor Al Franklin

Questions for application/discussion

- Practically speaking how does my relationship with the Father In Christ look different than before we were in Christ?
- Practically speaking how does my relationship with the Son In Christ look different than before we were in Christ?
- Practically speaking how does my relationship with the Holy Spirit In Christ look different than before we were in Christ?
- Practically speaking how does my relationship with the Devil In Christ look different than before we were in Christ?
- Practically speaking how does my relationship with the world In Christ look different than before we were in Christ?
- Practically speaking how does my relationship with tother believers In Christ look different than before we were in Christ?
- How will each of these associations be different in the future?