

If Anyone Is In Christ

Introduction

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Dr. B. J. Miller once said: It's a great deal easier to do that which God gives us to do, no matter how hard it is, than to face the responsibilities of not doing it!

1. **When a person obeys the gospel and comes to Christ, they are renewed spiritually and become a part of the new creation**
 - A. **Old things are passed away denotes that such a person is to follow a new kind of life, not one of sin (Romans 6:4).**
2. **Everything that really matters depends upon one's being in Christ:**
 - A. **Happiness in life, Hope in death, Salvation in eternity.**
3. **There are only two spiritual realms: Christ or Satan**

Matthew 12:30 **He who is not with Me is against Me**, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

- A. **There is no middle ground - it is either light or darkness.**
4. **The "IF" of the text (v17), suggests certain consequences that follow.**

If anyone is in Christ:

They Have Been Baptized into Christ

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1. Baptism is the act that puts one into Christ.

A. Many teach that faith only or that repentance is all that is necessary to put the sinner into Christ. But what does the inspired Paul say? **BAPTISM!**

B. If faith or repentance only is the act that unites one with Christ, why didn't Paul say:

"For as many of you as believed into Christ," or

"For as many of you as repented into Christ?"

- 1) If he would have said that, what would he have meant? The answer is obvious.**
- 2) Likewise, it is clear to the honest person that baptism is the act that puts one into Christ!**

C. An explanation of Galatians 3:26f makes clear the relationship of faith and baptism.

- 1) Notice that both v26 and v27 begin with the word **"for."** This word **"for"** introduces the reason for a previous statement.
- 2) In the preceding verses we read where the argument is made that the law has served its purpose and that we are no longer under the old law.
Galatians 3:22-24
- 3) How is it that we are no longer under the law? Why? **"For you are all sons of God through faith, in Christ Jesus."** The **for** tells why we are no longer under the law.

Now notice v 27. How is it that **"you are all sons of God (now) through faith?"** Why? **"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."**

Verse 27 explains how it is that we are children of God by faith ---- by faith we are baptized into Christ. Baptism is the act that puts one from without Christ to within Christ!

- 4) **Look at the order in verses 27 and 29:**
 - a. **Baptism, into Christ, Abraham's seed, heirs.**
 - b. **The negative: no baptism, not in Christ, not Abraham's seed, not heirs. And yet it is still taught that baptism is non-essential by many today!**

- D. **Other scriptures make it equally clear that baptism is the act of faith that puts one into Jesus Christ.**
Romans 6:3-10
Matthew 28:18-20

2. **The blessings IN Christ are NOT enjoyed until AFTER baptism.**
 - A. **Salvation is in Christ, but salvation follows baptism.**
Mark 16:16
 - 1) **Therefore, We're not IN Christ until baptized into Christ.**

 - B. **Freedom is in Christ, but freedom follows obedience to the form of teaching.**
Romans 6:17-23
 - 1) **Therefore, We're not in Christ until we obey Christ.**

 - C. **Newness of life is in Christ, but newness follows the burial in baptism.**
Romans 6:4
 - 1) **Therefore, We're not in Christ until baptized into Christ.**

They Have the Responsibility of Abiding in Christ

1. **The figure of the vine and branches teaches faithfulness.**
John 15:1-6
 - A. **The command is to ABIDE (V4). If we are commanded to abide then it is safe to say that there is the possibility of not abiding. Therefore, the possibility of apostasy is clearly taught!**
 - B. **Why abide? TO BEAR FRUIT!**
 - C. **The results of not abiding? CUT OFF AND BURNED (V6).**
Hebrews 6:4-8
2. **Examples of those who do not abide in Christ.**
 - A. **Some fall from grace (Galatians 5:4)**
 - B. **Some depart from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1)**
 - C. **Some deny the faith (1 Timothy 5:8)**
 - D. **Some overthrow the faith (2 Timothy 2:18)**
3. **What it truly means to abide in Christ:**
 - A. **To abide in the teaching of Jesus (2 John 9)**
 - B. **To abide in holiness and purity (Romans 12:1-2)**
 - C. **To abide in faithful observance of the commands of Christ**
Matthew 28:19-20a

They Have the Hope of Heaven If One Dies in Christ:

1. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

2. Faithfulness until the day we die is necessary to have the hope of heaven.

Revelation 2:10....Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

A. The apostle Paul could say:

Philippians 1:21 For to me, **to live is Christ**, and **to die is gain**.

1) Why could he make such a statement?

- a. He had been baptized into Christ (Acts 22:16; Rom 6:3).**
- b. He served a life abiding in Christ.**
2 Timothy 4:8

Conclusion:

- 1. Blessed is the one who gets into Christ, abides in Christ and dies in Christ.**
- 2. Are you in Christ this morning? Are you abiding in Him as you live your daily life?**

