



In Christ, Romans 8:1

In Christ Jesus

- A few years back I made the decision I needed to be a better swimmer
 - I found four YouTube videos that showed visually how to become a good swimmer
 - After watching them, would you describe me as being a trained swimmer?
 - No, I was an informed dry lander because I never actually got in the water deeper than waist deep
 - I never jumped into a body of water and applied or practiced the information I aquired

In Christ Jesus

- There is a very important phrase sprinkled throughout the New Testament, *“in Christ”* or *“in Him”* ...
 - **1st Corinthians 1:4 ESV**, I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus
 - **1st Corinthians 1:30 ESV**, 30 And because of him (*God*) you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption
 - **Romans 3:24-25 ESV**, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

In Christ Jesus

- Biblical Justice – the act by which God moves a willing person from the state of sin (*injustice*) to the state of grace (*justice*)
- Biblical Grace - the spontaneous, unmerited gift of the divine favor in the salvation of sinners, and the divine influence operating in individuals for their regeneration and sanctification
 - Jerry Bridges, “Grace is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against Him.”
 - Apostle Paul in **1st Corinthians 15:10 ESV**, “But by the grace of God I am what I am.”
- Why is it important that we find ourselves “*in Christ Jesus*”?

Scripture

- **Romans 8:1 ESV**, There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - This is the greatest declaration and promise made to you
 - The assurance of you standing before a holy, righteous God today, accepted and not be condemned to an eternity separated from Him

Scripture

- **Romans 8:1 ESV**, There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - But there is a condition that must be satisfied before this promise can be claim
 - Condition is not, “if you do more good things than bad”
 - Condition is not, “if you sacrifice enough”
 - Condition is you must be *“in Christ Jesus”*
 - This is so important we must make sure we understand what it means

“In Christ Jesus” does not mean you have factual information about Jesus

- It doesn't even mean you accept as truth the factual information you possess
 - J. Warner Wallace, “Cold Case Christianity” believed in the factual resurrection of Jesus based upon the evidence before he knew why it was important

“In Christ Jesus” does not mean you have factual information about Jesus

- The Religious Leaders and Pharisees had some factual information about Jesus
 - **John 3:1-2 ESV**, Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

“In Christ Jesus” does not mean you have factual information about Jesus

- The Religious Leaders and Pharisees had some factual information about Jesus
 - What did they know and were convinced of?
 - Knew Jesus was a teacher from God
 - Knew Jesus’ miracles proved God was with Him
 - Yet, they manipulated the crowd and the Roman rulers to have Jesus crucified on a cross like a common criminal

“In Christ Jesus” does not mean you have factual information about Jesus

- It's like purchasing a Powerball ticket and guessing your numbers
 - Watching the selection and seeing every one of your numbers selected
 - It's like knowing you have won and rejoicing
 - You put the ticket in a very safe place and get everything ready
 - But never actually claiming your winnings
 - You would call this foolish

“In Christ Jesus” does not mean you have factual information about Jesus

- **Matthew 7:21-23 ESV**, 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

“In Christ Jesus” does not mean you have factual information about Jesus

- **Matthew 7:21-23 ESV**
 - “Lord, I knew a lot of things about you and even believed most of them.”
 - “I prayed to you at times, went to church at times, gave money to your church at times”

“In Christ Jesus” does not mean you have factual information about Jesus

- **Matthew 7:21-23 ESV**
 - So, who is the one who, “*does the will of my Father*”?
 - **John 6:28-29 ESV**, 28 Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God (*How do we do the will of the Father*)?”
 - **29 AMP**, Jesus answered, “This is the work of God: that you believe [adhere to, trust in, rely on, and have faith] in the One whom He has sent.”

“In Christ Jesus” means you have been “identified with/wrapped up/enclosed in” the finished work of Jesus Christ

- You must *“Believe in him”* as Jesus commanded
- God is perfect justice
 - He cannot simply overlook or excuse our sin; that would not be just, Sin had to be paid for
 - All the wrath God holds toward evil was poured out on His own Son on the cross

“In Christ Jesus” means you have been “identified with/wrapped up/enclosed in” the finished work of Jesus Christ

- When Jesus took our place on the cross, He suffered the punishment our sin deserves. His last words before He died were, "It is finished" **(John 19:30)**
 - What was finished?
 - Not merely His earthly life, as He proved three days later, that was not finished **(Matt. 28:7; Mark 16:6; 1 Cor. 15:6)**
 - What He finished on the cross was God’s plan to redeem His fallen world

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- When Jesus took our place on the cross, He suffered the punishment our sin deserves. His last words before He died were, "It is finished" **(John 19:30)**
 - What was finished?
 - When Jesus said, "It is finished," He was stating that He had successfully paid in full for every act of rebellion, past, present, and future

“In Christ Jesus” means you have been “identified with/wrapped up/enclosed in” the finished work of Jesus Christ

- To be "in Christ" means we have accepted and trusting only in His sacrifice as payment for our own sin debt
 - Our rap sheets contain every sinful thought, attitude, or action we have ever committed
 - No amount of self-cleansing can make us pure enough to warrant forgiveness and a relationship with a holy God **(Rom. 3:10-12)**
 - The Bible says that in our natural sinful state we are enemies of God **(Rom. 5:10)**

“In Christ Jesus” means you have been “identified with/wrapped up/enclosed in” the finished work of Jesus Christ

- When we accept His sacrifice on our behalf, He switches accounts with us. He exchanges our list of sins for His perfect account that is totally pleasing to God **(2 Cor. 5:21)**
 - A Divine Exchange takes place at the foot of the cross: our old sin nature for His perfect one **(2 Cor. 5:17)**
- It is a work of the Holy Spirit at our salvation
 - **Galatians 3:26-27 ESV**, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

“In Christ Jesus” means everything about you now flows through Christ Jesus

- God no longer sees our imperfections; He sees the righteousness of His own Son (**Eph. 2:13; Heb. 8:12**)
- The result of being “*in Christ*” in **Romans 8**
 - **Vs. 1**, Now and never again condemned by God
 - **Vs. 9**, The Spirit of God dwells in you
 - **Vs. 11**, Life brought to your mortal bodies
 - **Vs. 14**, Led by the Spirit of God
 - **Vs. 15**, Adopted as sons

“In Christ Jesus” means everything about you now flows through Christ Jesus

- The result of being “*in Christ*” in **Romans 8**
 - **Vs. 26**, The Spirit helps us in our weakness
 - **Vs. 28**, Everything works together for good
 - **Vs. 31**, God is for us
 - **Vs. 33**, No charge against us will stick
 - **Vs. 34**, Jesus is interceding for us
 - **Vs. 35**, Never separated from God’s love
 - **Vs. 37**, More than a conqueror

“In Christ Jesus” means everything about you now flows through Christ Jesus

- All of this by grace, not a one is earned or deserved
- Let your life and attitude be governed by these truths
- Instead of letting fear and anxiety control you mind come to **Romans 8** and bathe in the goodness of your Heavenly Father

“In Christ Jesus”

- **Hebrews 2:3 ESV**, how shall we escape if we neglect (*ignore*) such a great salvation?
 - We don't and we won't
 - How do we expect to live today as children of God if we neglect/ignore our great salvation?
 - We don't and we won't

“In Christ Jesus”

- **Romans 8:6 ESV** tells us to determine ahead of time to set firm our thinking and responding to this corrupt world, *“the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.”*
 - It will bring life and peace to our todays



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