

The Believer's Identification with Christ

In the NT epistles, we need to distinguish the terms "in Christ" versus "with Christ / Him".

"in Christ" = our *positional standing before God* based on eternal union to Christ through salvation, we are greatly & unconditionally blessed as God views us being in His own dear Son.

"with Christ" = our *identification or association with Christ*, connected with the way God views us as identified with His own Son, in particular in His death, burial & resurrection.

The Word of God uses the truth of our identification with Christ to exhort us to recognise that our state practically must be compatible with our standing positionally.

Note the recurring use of the '*if*' of argument or reasoning in Rom 6v8, Col 2v20 and Col 3v1.

There are real practical implications that make demands upon us, as we recognise that we are spiritually identified in a number of ways with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The believer's identification with Christ is true from the moment of salvation.

Unconverted sinners are identified only with the devil (see 2 Cor 4v4, Eph 2v1-2).

God's salvation delivers from the authority of darkness (see Col 1v13), to being spiritually, vitally & eternally identified with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Col 2v13: "**And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He (God) quickened together with Him (God's Son), having forgiven you all trespasses**"; the believer's vital saving identification *with Christ* in His life. At conversion, spiritual life is imparted, the believer is made spiritually alive together with the risen Christ and enjoys God's forgiveness (see also Col 2v14).

Romans 6v3-8: Identification with Christ in His Death and Burial

The believer has *died with Christ* to sin and is *buried with Him* into the place of death, symbolised in baptism. This truth gives the believer deliverance from the dominating principle of sin.

Galatians 2v20: Identification with Christ in His Crucifixion

The believer is *crucified with Christ* and thus has died with Christ to self, that Christ may live in us.

Colossians 2v20-22: Identification with Christ in His Death

The believer has *died with Christ* to the religious & philosophical elements of the world.

Colossians 3v1-4:

v1-2: Identification with Christ in His Past Resurrection

The believer has been *raised with Christ*, to be occupied with things above, where the risen Christ is.

v3: Identification with Christ in His Present Exaltation

The believer has a secret life presently, unknown to the world, that is *hid with Christ* in God.

v4: Identification with Christ in His Future Manifestation

The believer will be *manifested with Christ* to the world in the coming day of His revealed glory.