

## I Examination of the “in Christ” references and context

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Description</u> - (NASB translation based)
1:1	faithful in Christ Jesus
1:3	every spiritual blessing in Christ
1:4	chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
1:5	adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ
1:6	grace bestowed in the Beloved
1:7	in Him – redemption through his blood, forgiveness
1:9	good pleasure purposed in Him
1:10	summing up all things in Christ
1:11	In Him we have obtained an inheritance (were also chosen)
1:13	in Whom you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit
1:19-20	greatness of his power . . . which he brought about in Christ
2:5	made us alive <u>together</u> with Christ
2:6	and raised us up with Him
2:6	and seated us with Him . . . in Christ Jesus
2:7	riches of his grace . . . in Christ Jesus
2:10	created in Christ Jesus
2:13	but now in Christ Jesus you have been brought near by the blood
2:15	in Himself he might make the two into one new man
2:16	reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross
2:18	through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father
2:21	in Whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing
2:22	in Whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God
3:6	fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus
3:11	the eternal purpose which he carried out in Christ Jesus
3:12	in Whom we have boldness and confident access
4:3	to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
4:12	building up of the body of Christ
4:15	we are to grow up into all aspects into Him
4:32	just as God in Christ also has forgiven you
5:8	but now you are light in the Lord
5:30	we are members of His body
6:10	finally, be strong in the Lord

• Other major references to Union with Christ in Paul’s Epistles:

- Rom 6:1-11
- Gal 2:20; 3:27-29; 6:14
- Phil 1:21; 2:1; 3:9-10; 4:7,13
- Col 1:14, 22, 28; 2:6,7,10,11,12,13,20; 3:1,3,4

## II Five Distinct Aspects to Union with Christ

1. Eternal: “Chosen in Christ from before the foundations of the world.” Union with Christ begins in eternity, with the grace of election.
2. Historical-redemptive: “If we have become united with Him in the likeness of his death, certainly we shall also in the likeness of His resurrection . . . Now if we died with Christ. . .” (Rom 6:5,8). Though not personally alive, we were nevertheless united to Christ in His redemptive work, including death, burial and resurrection, when these were historical events.
3. Personal-existential: “Even when we were dead in our transgressions and sins, he made us alive together with Christ” (Eph 2:5). At the moment we were spiritually reborn, we were personally, existentially, united to Christ. Therefore, we grow “in Christ” and come to maturity spiritually “in Him.”
4. Ecclesiastical: From Eph 2:5 again, “he made us alive together with Christ” and Col 2:13, “he made you alive together with Him.” When we became alive spiritually and entered into personal union with Christ, we were at that instant united to His body, the church. Thus, to be in union with Christ is to be united to all other believers. Our union to Him unites us to all other true Christians, past, present, future.
5. Eschatological: This word refers to “the last things” or the things to come when God’s kingdom comes in its fullness, and we receive all the inheritance that has been promised. But our union with Christ unites us to that future even now: “And raised us up, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:6). Right now, we as believers in this life, in the present current of history, have nevertheless, by virtue of our union with Christ, been raised with Christ, and seated with Him, in His heavenly glory. We are united to the glorified Christ, so that we are united to our future inheritance (of which the Holy Spirit is the promised down payment – Eph 1:14). The future inheritance is already ours “in Christ.”

## III Analysis and Observation of Each Particular Aspect

- The application the five aspect description to each “in Christ” statements in Ephesians, to determine which aspect or aspects of union with Christ is being referred to.

## IV Implications for Adam-Christ relationship:

1. The parallelism that is stated in I Corinthians 15:22 as “in Adam” and “in Christ” is an analogical comparison.
2. Thus: we may and should consider the relationship of Adam to mankind as analogous to that of Christ and his church, even if the relationship is not identical in all points. Otherwise we will destroy the integrity of the analogy Paul draws.
3. Implications:
  - certainly historical: All mankind was “in Adam” when he sinned and fell.
  - certainly existential: All mankind (apart from grace) still in union with Adam – the effects are spiritual, moral and physical
  - possibly eschatological: All mankind (apart from grace) are destined for everlasting separation and condemnation, and under that condemnation even now
  - actual corporate unity: All mankind is the “body” of Adam, in the sense of being biological progeny – biological unity to human race.
  - certainly an eternal aspect: God chose Adam to be the head of the human race.