

## VII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

### LESSON SEVEN

#### ... ABOUT BEING IN CHRIST JESUS, OUR IDENTITY

#### INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul in **Colossians 1:28** sets before us the goal of the local Body of Christ. That goal being, through preaching, warning (admonishing) and teaching every person in the body would grow up in Jesus Christ to maturity.

**Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (mature) in Christ Jesus**

The purpose of this lesson is to learn that our identity as born-again children of God is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many believers, and to some extent every believer has an identity crisis. If we are to grow up in Jesus Christ, we must know what it means to be in Christ Jesus, so that we will understand that it is in Him we live, move and have our being.

#### IN CHRIST JESUS - MEANING

In **1 Corinthians 12:13** we are told that we are baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit. Who is the baptizer:

**For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.**

Answer: The Holy Spirit

When does this baptism by the Holy Spirit into the one Body take place? When one is:

- Baptized with the Holy Spirit;
- Baptized with water; or
- Born again (Baptized with the Blood of Jesus)?

**1 John 5:8, And there are Three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.**

(Three-fold Baptism)

Refer to the following Scriptures for the answer to the above question.

Mark 1:8

Matthew 3:15; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38

John 4:14; Titus 3:5

Conclusions: Since from the above Scriptures we see that Jesus, not the Holy Spirit is the Spirit Baptizer, and that water baptism is a act of righteousness/obedience on the part of a believer, and that when one is born-again he is baptized by Holy Spirit with the blood of Jesus, the answer to the

above question, as to when one is baptized into the One Body, would be, when one is born-again.

What is the One Body into which one is baptized when he is born-again?

1 Corinthians 12:27

Romans 12:5

Ephesians 5:30

Conclusions: From the above Scriptures we see that through the New Birth we are Baptized into Christ.

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN CHRIST?**

John 3:3-8.

Philippians 3:9

Galatians 3:27.

Colossians 3:10

2 Peter 1:4.

2 Corinthians 5:21

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 6:3-6

John 1:12-13

Galatians 4:6

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that to be in Christ means the Believer has:

- been ushered into the Kingdom of God;
- been clothed with the righteousness of Christ;
- put on Christ;
- taken on the Divine nature (moral attributes of God);
- become an entirely new person/a new creation, having a new nature (old man dead and buried with Christ);
- a new standing, as a child/son of God.

### **IN CHRIST JESUS, BENEFITS**

According to the following Scriptures what are some of the benefits of being in Christ Jesus?

Romans 8:1

Romans 8:2

Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16

Romans 8:11; Isaiah 53:5

Romans 8:13

Romans 8:14-17; Hebrews 1:2

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:28-29

Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:19

Romans 8:35-39; John 10:28-29

Conclusions: We note from the above Scriptures that some of the benefits of being in Christ Jesus are:

- no condemnation;
- being free/delivered from the law of sin and death;
- being the Temple of the Holy Spirit,
  - which brings to you resurrection life for your mortal/physical body;
  - the power/ability to put to death the bodily/soulish sin habits (getting the sin in you out of you);
  - the Spirit's witness as to your standing before God;
  - the Spirit's intercession on your part.
- being a joint heir with Christ;
- being assured that God will work all things, good or bad, for your good;
- having all your needs met by God;
- having the absolute assurance of being eternally secure in the hands of the Father.

### **RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH**

Knowing that we are no longer slaves to sin, but are now sons and daughters of God, that in Christ Jesus we live and move and have our being, what is our reasonable service to be according to Romans 12:1,2?

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which* is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

How do you accomplish this according to 2 Tin 2:20, 21?

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the masters use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

According to this passage what will be the result?