

Series: The Bible for Today

My True Identity: Who I Am IN Christ:

(1 Cor 15:22)

“Who Am I as a Christian?”

160 times “In Him” “In Christ” “In the Lord”

Like IN a House or belonging to a club?

“In Christ” means *“United”* with Christ.

(1 Cor 15:45) *“First Adam”* vs *“Last Adam”*

Adam as Our Representative: (Rom 5:12-19)

Adam is our Representative Head. (United with Adam)

When he sinned, we sinned.

(Gen 3)

(Rom 5:12)

(Rom 5:18a & 19a)

(Vs 18a) *by the offence of one judgment came upon all men*

(Vs 19a) *by one man's disobedience many were made sinners*

Consequently: I am a Sinner: (Ps 51:5)

We came into this world united with Adam:

(Eph 2:1-3) describes all of us before Salvation.

Spiritually Dead

Slaves to Sin: (World, Devil, Fleshly Passions)

Objects of God's Wrath: (Jn 3:18,36)

(1 Cor 15:22) *“As In Adam, All Die”*

All of Creation Suffers from this:

(Gen 3:17-19) God cursed the ground.

(Rom 8:19-22) The Futility of All Creation.

(1 Cor 15:45) *“First Adam”* vs *“Last Adam”*

Christ as Our Representative: Christ represents the saved.

(Rom 5:18b & 19b)

(vs 18b) *“even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”*

Universal Condemnation: (Vs 18a) “All men”

Universal offer of Salvation: (Vs 18b) 2nd “All Men”

One act of righteousness leads to justification of all men.

(Vs 19a) *“For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners,”* Universal Condemnation.

(Vs 19b) *“so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”*

(Vs18-19) The 1st All & Many refer to all humanity suffered the consequences of Adam's sin.

The 2nd “All” & “Many” refer only to those who trust in Christ as *“In Him”*.

(2 Cor 5:21) *“made the righteousness of God in him.”*

Salvation Conditional on being *“In Christ”*. (Eph 2:13-17)

(Heb 2:9) *Taste death for every man.*

In (Deut 28) Moses lays out 2 Alternatives:

(Deut 28:1-14) Tremendous Blessings b/c of Obedience.

(Deut 28:15-45) Horrible Curses b/c of Disobedience.

By Christ's perfect life, He earned the blessings of God.

By Christ's death on Calvary He experienced the curse.

As Our Representative, all that he did accrues to our benefit.

Christ assumed our responsibility to Obey God's Law.

Christ assumed our penalty for disobeying God's Law.

I was represented by Adam at Birth.

I am represented by Christ at the New Birth.

I was in a Spiritually Dead Union with Adam at Birth.

I am NOW in a Living Union with Christ:

(Jn 17:11, 21-22) I In Christ & Christ In ME!

This Living Union is put into Affect by the Holy Spirit:

(Rom 8:9-11)

(1 Co 3:16)

TO many people, Prayer seems like a Long Distance call, with spotty reception.

This Living Union with Jesus Christ is Best Illustrated by the Vine & Branches: (Jn 15:1-5)

Jesus is the Vine: (Vs 1) *I am the true vine,*

(Vs 1b) *My Father is the husbandman.*

We are the Branches: (Vs 5) *Ye are the Branches*

(1) In This Living Union with Jesus Christ, as the Vine, He is the source of all life:

(Vs 1) *"I am the true vine*

The Vine Gives Life to the Branches:

(Jn 1:4) *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

(John 10:10) *I am come that they might have life,*

He is the only Source of Eternal Life:

(John 10:28-30) *And I give unto them eternal life:*

(2) In This Living Union with Jesus Christ, Everything that the Vine has, is given wholly to the Branches:

(Mat 6:33) *all these things shall be added unto you.*

(Rom 8:32) *also freely give us all things?*

(3) He is the Support to the Branches:

(Heb 1:3) *upholding all things by the word of his power,*

(4) He gives Purpose to the Branches: We Are to Bear Fruit!

(Jn 15:2) *every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

We are to bear fruit! This is the Father's Will for us.

Fruit is anything done to bring Glory to God.

(Titus 3:14) *that they be not unfruitful.*

(Eph 5:9) *(For the fruit of the Spirit...)*

(Gal 5:22-23) *But the fruit of the Spirit is ...*

Our Fruit should lead to souls being saved:

(Mat 5:16) *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works & glorify your Father which is in heaven*

(5) The Father tends Us so that We will bear the most fruit

(Vs 2) *beareth not fruit he taketh away: & beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

Our 4 Baskets: *No Fruit, Fruit, More Fruit, Much fruit.*

What areas of your life do each of these baskets represent?

(Vs 2c) *"he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."*

Purging=Pruning

To bear fruit we must let the Father cut wrong practices & habits out of our lives so we can bear more fruit;
(Heb 12:11) *chastening ... it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

Plants Bear fruit to reproduce themselves:
(Mark 4:28-29) *For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself;*

The Human Soul is that valuable to God!
(John 3:16)

(5) Fruit-bearing depends on us Abiding in Christ & drawing on His sustaining grace: (John 15:4-5) *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,*

Webster's Dictionary: "Abide" Means to Rest or Dwell in.
(2 Cor 3:4-5) *our sufficiency is of God;*

We are Complete IN CHRIST & only in CHRIST!
He is not a part of life, He IS OUR LIFE
(Jn 15:5) *We CAN DO NOTHING without HIM!*

(2 Tim 2:21) *a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*
(Gal 5:16-17) *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

We Must Choose to Resist the Devil (James 4:7-8) *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

We are to Abide in Christ & Yield unto God. Rom 6:13-21

(6) Failing to bear fruit has serious consequences:
(John 15:6) *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

We are judged if we do not bear fruit: (Luke 13:7-9)

(7) Those who bear fruit have their prayers answered:
(Jn 15:7) *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*
(1 John 3:22) (1 John 5:14-15)

(8) Bearing fruit glorifies God.
(John 15:8) *ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples*
(1 Cor 6:20) *glorify God in your body and in your spirit.*
(1 Pet 2:12) *glorify God in the day of visitation.*

I am in a Representative Union with Christ at the New Birth.
I am in a Living Union with Christ for all Eternity.
It is God's doing, not of mine: (1 Cor 1:30) *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

By the work of God, I am no longer in Adam, I am "In Christ" through a union that is both living & representative.