

Our Full Identity in Christ Jesus

An 11-Session Bible Study

Who We Are Because of What He Has Done

Includes: Greek & Hebrew Word Studies · Cross-Reference Trails
Reflection Questions · Personal Application
Group Discussion · Prayer Guides

"Christ in you, the hope of glory."

— **Colossians 1:27**

How to Use This Study

This study guide contains eleven sessions, one for each foundational truth of Christian identity covered in the blog series. Each session is designed for approximately 60–90 minutes of personal study, or 90 minutes in a group setting.

Each session includes:

Session Focus — a theological grounding for the identity truth, written in accessible language.

Greek/Hebrew Word Studies — the original language behind key terms, with context from the ancient world.

Cross-Reference Trail — connected Scriptures that develop the theme across the biblical narrative.

Reflection Questions — personal, honest questions designed to move from theology to your actual life.

Personal Application — concrete, specific practices to embody the truth this week.

Group Discussion — questions for open, honest conversation with others on the same journey.

Prayer — a closing prayer that speaks the truth back to God as a declaration and invitation.

A note on approach:

Christian identity is not motivational content. It is covenantal reality — statements about who you are based on what Christ has done. The goal of this study is not information accumulation but genuine reception: learning to live from truths that are already true, rather than striving toward an identity you're hoping to earn.

Go slowly. Return to sessions. Let the word studies open the text in new ways. Use the reflection questions honestly. Pray the prayers as your own — not as liturgy to perform but as declarations to receive.

You are not discovering who you should be. You are discovering who you already are in Christ.

SESSION 05

United with Christ

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

— Galatians 2:20

◆ SESSION FOCUS

Union with Christ is the most foundational and most overlooked truth in Paul's theology. The phrase 'in Christ' (Greek: en Christō) appears over 160 times in his letters. Paul creates a series of compound syn- verbs to describe what has happened: co-crucified, co-raised, co-seated. These are not metaphors for imitation. They are declarations that Christ's history is now your history. You exist in a new sphere — the sphere of his death, resurrection, and life. Not following him from the outside. Living from him on the inside.

◆ GREEK/HEBREW WORD STUDIES

ἐν Χριστῷ
en Christō

In Christ — the sphere of his life

Preposition en indicating location/sphere. Over 160 uses in Paul's letters. Everything true of Christ in relation to God is true of you, because you exist within him. Not positional language only — ontological.

συν- verbs

Co- with Christ

syn- compounds

συνεσταύρωμαι (co-crucified, Gal 2:20), συνεζωοποίησεν (co-made-alive, Eph 2:5), συνήγειρεν (co-raised, Col 3:1), συνεκάθισεν (co-seated, Eph 2:6). Paul's most radical language — shared history, shared position, shared destiny.

Χριστὸς ἐν ὑμῖν
Christos en hymin

Christ in you

Colossians 1:27 — 'Christ in you, the hope of glory.' Paul calls this the mystery hidden for ages. Not just Christ over you, or beside you, but Christ dwelling within you as the very source of your hope and future.

◆ CROSS-REFERENCE TRAIL

John 15:1–11 Jesus's own vine-branch language — the most accessible picture of union.

Romans 6:3–11 Baptized into his death, raised to new life — the mechanics of union.

Ephesians 2:4–6 Co-made-alive, co-raised, co-seated — present-tense reality.

Colossians 3:1–4 Your life is hidden with Christ in God — the security of union.

1 Corinthians 6:17 Joined to the Lord, one spirit with him — the intimacy of union.

◆ REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What's the difference between 'following Jesus' and 'being united to Jesus'? Where have you functionally lived as a follower (keeping up from the outside) rather than as one who is in him?

Your response...

2. Galatians 2:20 says 'Christ lives in me.' What does that practically mean for how you approach a difficult day, a temptation, or a task you feel unequipped for?

Your response...

3. Paul uses the vine-branch image — a branch doesn't produce fruit by striving; it produces fruit by staying connected. Where are you striving when you should be abiding?

Your response...

◆ PERSONAL APPLICATION

→ Memorize Galatians 2:20 this week. Read it every morning as a declaration of where you live — not outside of Christ, trying to keep up, but in him, and him in you.

→ *Try this prayer practice: before a challenging situation, stop and say: 'Christ in me. I am not facing this alone. His strength is my resource.' Notice how it reorients your approach.*

→ *Journal on this question: 'What would change about how I live if I truly believed Christ's life was flowing through me, the way sap flows through a vine?'*

◆ GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Paul's syn- compound verbs (co-crucified, co-raised, co-seated) describe shared history with Christ. Does this feel abstract or meaningful to you? How do you make it concrete?
2. What's the practical difference between living for Jesus (external motivation) versus living from Jesus (internal source)? Share a real example from your own life.
3. John 15 says branches that abide in the vine bear fruit naturally — they don't strain for it. Where in your life have you experienced fruit that came from abiding rather than striving?
4. Why do we so often default to 'following Jesus from a distance' rather than living from union? What would need to change in your daily rhythms to abide more deeply?

◆ PRAYER

Lord, I believe what your Word says — I am in you, and you are in me.

But so much of my life I live as though you're ahead of me and I'm trying to keep up.

Today, help me to live from you, not toward you.

To draw on your strength, not manufacture my own.

To remain connected to the vine and trust the fruit to come.

I am not doing this alone. You are in me. That changes everything.

Amen.