

**IN CHRIST**  
(Eph. 1:1-14)

**Introduction:**

1. What an amazing passage of scripture. All the amazing, awe inspiring blessings God has given to those who are IN CHRIST.
2. Let us consider this figurative expression more deeply. Let us understand the fullness of what we can have and what exactly it means to be IN CHRIST.
3. Let us consider what it is to be born, to live, and to die IN CHRIST.

**Discussion:**

**I. Born IN CHRIST.**

- A. Born in Christ = to be born again or born from above (John 3:3ff).
  1. We were all born physically, but when we sinned we died (spiritually = separated from God) with no means of living (spiritually = being reunited with God) again (Rom. 7:7-9; Jas. 1:13-15; 1 John 3:4; Rom. 5:13).
  2. Even though we want to live again so much, we find ourselves unable to walk perfectly (Rom. 7:15-24). And thus Paul's cry of Rom. 7:24.
  3. Thus our need to be born again = born from above (Rom. 8:1, 6-11, 14-17).
- B. In Christ we are new creations (2 Cor. 5:17), created for good works (Eph. 2:10).
- C. This birth takes place in water baptism (John 3:5; Rom. 6:3, 4; Acts 22:16).

**II. Live IN CHRIST.**

- A. Once we have been born IN CHRIST (born from above, created anew) we are then to continue living in Christ (Acts 13:43; Rom. 6:23; Titus 2:11-14).
- B. Consider the apostle John's teaching on this.
  1. Jesus is THE LIGHT of the world which gives light to all men (John 1:1-5, 9).
  2. When we were born IN CHRIST we were delivered from the power of darkness (sin, separation from God) into (eis) the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col. 1:13 = delivered into light!).
  3. Those who are the Lord's are to be light (Matt. 5:14-16), like our Lord.
  4. If we continue living in the light (IN CHRIST) we continue having our sin washed away and continue to be reconciled to God (we remain alive!).
- C. The charge to all who have been born IN CHRIST is to think, talk, and act IN THE NAME OF CHRIST (by His authority). That is, to LIVE IN CHRIST.

**III. Die IN CHRIST.**

- A. The culmination (goal, aim, objective) of our life IN CHRIST is to DIE IN CHRIST.
- B. We are to remain faithful to Christ unto (until our and even if it results in our) death (Rev. 2:10).
- C. The joy and privilege of those who DIE IN CHRIST (1 Thess. 4:16).
- D. The joy and hope of those who DIE IN CHRIST (1 Pet. 3-8).

**Conclusion:**

1. In sports and in the business world it is important to be in the right place at the right time.
2. With regards to our spiritual life the same is true. The place to be at all times is IN CHRIST.
3. Invitation.

## MORE ON “IN CHRIST”

1. Let us read Eph. 1:1-14 again and notice all that we have in the right place at the right time.
2. The importance of prepositions (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27). Born into Christ is only via baptism.
  - A. Cannot be in Christ and in sin at the same time. Must be washed of sin before one is able to be in Christ (Acts 22:16; Titus 3:5).
  - B. To be in Christ means we must have died to sin and self (Rom. 6:3-13; Col. 3:3) and that the life we live thereon is for Christ/like Christ/with Christ (Gal. 2:20).
3. Every thought/word/deed is to be according to the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 3:17).
  - A. Every thought (2 Cor. 10:5 accomplished by Ps. 1).
  - B. Every word (Jas. 3; Matt. 12:33-37).
  - C. Every deed (2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 7:12; Jas. 4:17; John 17:4).
4. Remain faithful unto (until your death, and even if it precipitates your death) death (Rev. 2:10).
  - A. Consider the prize (Phil. 3:10-16; 2 Tim. 2:8; 1 Pet. 1:4; Rev. 3:21; Rev. 21, 22).
  - B. Consider the alternative (Mk. 9:42-48; Matt. 25:41; 13:49, 50; et al).
  - C. What would you accept as incentive to trade the first for the second (Heb. 11:24-27)?

# BE FOUND IN CHRIST!