

THE CROSS

2. How was I actually crucified with Christ?
 - By His doing, I was placed "in Christ"
 - **1 Cor 1:30** – "but by His doing"
 3. The "oneness" of humanity!
 - **1 Cor 15:45-47**
 1. The cross **for me**.
 - Acts of sin – dealt with by His blood – **Rev 1:5b**
 2. The cross **in me**.
 - Sin nature – dealt with by His death – **Gal 2:20,21**
 - I came into the sin nature by birth, I can only get out by death.
- I stand on this as fact, not because I understand it or feel it, but because I **faith** it as true.

IN CHRIST

What then does it mean to be "in Christ?"

John 15:5-8 – "he who abides *in Me*"

1. A **living** relationship
 - The connection between Vine and branch is living
 - The sap, water, and nutrients all come from the Vine and flow to the branches – to bear leaves and fruit.
 - The branches do no work, they only allow "work" to flow through them.
 - The relationship is possible because of an act of God
 - **Gal 4:6** – He dwells in us by the presence of His Spirit.
 - **2 Cor 1:21 & Phil 1:6** – God did all the work.
 - **2 Cor 3:6** – The Spirit is the source of life!
 - **John 10:10** – Life abundant

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2. A **complete** relationship
 - **v. 5** – "he who abides in Me and I in Him"
 - This relationship is so intimate that both are needed to bring completion to humanity.
 - Without the Vine the branch can do nothing. (**v.5**)
 - The power to bring forth fruit is His presence (**Gal 5**)
 - I am completely dependent on Him for everything!
 - Without the branches, the Vine can bear no fruit.
 - In the amazing grace of Jesus He has made Himself dependent on us!
 - No program has ever helped a single person.
 - His presence in the world is in and through people – His bride, his true church (people, not a building)

IN CHRIST

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3. A **giving** relationship
 - All the Vine possesses belongs to and for the branches
 - **Eph 1:9-12** – the summing up of all things...
 - The great mystery revealed.
 - **Col 1:25-27** – the hope of glory.
 - **John 17:22** – we have this amazing glory!
 - **Ex 33:18** – show me Your glory!
 - **Rom 3:23** – sin caused humanity to lose the glory of God.
 - What is the "glory" of God?
 - Glory: His intrinsic greatness or weightiness, His manifold majesty, brilliance, depth, and awesomeness.
 - It is all His attributes in perfect balance.
 - The branches reflect the Glory of the Vine! (the great mystery)
 - **Gal 5** – the fruit of the Spirit are the manifestation of His glory!

IN CHRIST

What then does it mean to be "in Christ?"

4. An **endless** relationship
 - **2 Cor 1:21,22** – sealed us.
 - **Eph 1:12,14** – "sealed in Him"
 - What then is **John 15:6** referring to?
 - Fruit-bearing, not salvation.
5. A **sinless** relationship
 - **2 Cor 5:17** – all things!
 - **1 John 3:5,6** – while abiding in Christ, I cannot look away unto myself (sin)
 - **Rom 8:1** – no condemnation!