

IN CHRIST

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

John 15:5-8 – "he who abides *in Me*"

1. A **living** relationship
2. A complete relationship
3. A giving relationship
4. An endless relationship
5. A sinless relationship

Justified

"Most of the 21st century church despises doctrine. They simply hate to learn. They would much rather 'feel' their way through a church service than listen to sound preaching."

Dr. C. Matthew McMahon

The Doctrine of Justification – the doctrine of being "in Christ"

Justification: God's act of declaring or making a sinner righteous before Him – **Rom 3:21-26**

Justified

Different beliefs concerning justification.

1. **Liberalism** – denies the need of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation
2. **Neo-orthodoxy** – there is an alleged need for faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, but there is a great deal of ambiguity as to who Christ is.
3. **Antinomianism** – justification is by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.
 - Antinomians also stress the "fiducial" nature of saving faith in Jesus Christ as He is revealed in Scripture.
 - A denial of the necessity of good works in the process of sanctification following justification.

Justified

Different beliefs concerning justification.

4. **Roman Catholicism** – justification is infused into the believer who thereby becomes righteous.
 - The believer, then, may lose his state of justification by falling away from the faith.
 - One is justified by faith plus works.
5. **Evangelical** – justification is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Justified

Westminster Confession of Faith (11:1-2):

Those whom God effectually calls, He also freely justifies: not by infusing righteousness into them [as in Roman Catholicism], but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous, not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness, but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith; which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God.

Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and His righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification; yet it is not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but works by love.

Justified

Seven realities of the righteousness of Christ:

1. God's wrath is completely satisfied
 - In this imputed righteousness of Christ there is enough to completely satisfy the justice of God and to take off all His judicial anger and fury.
 - **Eze. 16:61-63; Hebrews. 10:10-12, 14; Isaiah 53:4-6**
2. Takes away all our unrighteousness.
 - It cancels every bond; it takes away all iniquity and answers for all your sins
 - **Isaiah 53:5-7; Colossians 2:12-15**
3. Presents us perfectly righteous in the sight of God.
 - **1 Cor. 1:30; Rom 10:4**

Justified

Seven realities of the righteousness of Christ:

4. Will answer to all the fears, doubts, and objections of our souls. (2 Cor. 5:21; Galatians 3:13)
 - How shall I look up to God? The answer is "in the righteousness of Jesus Christ."
 - How shall I have any communion with a holy God in this world? The answer is "in the righteousness of Jesus Christ."
 - How shall I find acceptance with God? The answer is "in the righteousness of Jesus Christ."
 - How shall I die? The answer is "in the righteousness of Jesus Christ."
 - How shall I stand before the judgment seat? The answer is "in the righteousness of Jesus Christ."

Justified

Seven realities of the righteousness of Christ:

5. Is the only true basis, bottom, and ground, for a believer to build his happiness upon, his joy and comfort upon, and the true peace and quiet of his conscience upon.
 - Romans 8:33; 38-39
6. May serve to comfort, support, and bear up the hearts of the people of God from fainting and sinking under the sense of the weakness and imperfection of their inherent righteousness.
 - Isaiah 64:6

Justified

Seven realities of the righteousness of Christ:

7. We have peace with God! Romans 5:1
As a result of the peace with God in our spirit, four things follow:
 1. We lose our fear of God!
 - Romans 8:15; Galatians 3:26-4:7
 - In Christ, God is no longer our judge, but is now a loving, tenderhearted, compassionate Father!
 2. We lose our fear of death!
 - Romans 8:2; I Corinthians 15:55-57
 - In Christ, the problem of "death" has been removed

Justified

7. We have peace with God! Romans 5:1
As a result of the peace with God in our spirit, four things follow:
 3. We have The Answer to attacks of doubts and fear.
 - Colossians 3:3,4 – I am hidden in Him because I have been crucified with Him!
 - Hebrews 12:2 – He is the Author and Perfecter
 - Doubt will persist until the day we die. I am to remind myself Who's holding whom – 2 Timothy 1:12
 - My standing and my acceptance by God does not depend on me – on what I do or fail to do. Even my sin does not cancel it out. The whole essence of the gospel (the Good News, remember?) is that God has made the Way to pay my sin debt, in the work of his beloved Son on my behalf. Romans 8:33,34d

Justified

7. We have peace with God! Romans 5:1
As a result of the peace with God in our spirit, four things follow:

4. We have The Answer to the accusation of our own conscience when we sin.
 - How can I truly be in Christ and act like this, or think like this, or ...
 - Romans 8:1 – NO CONDEMNATION!
 - When I completely blow it, there is no condemnation, because I am a son and I am learning how to walk in my new identity – I am a new creature because I am "in Christ" 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - His grace provides fully for all of my errors during my new growth! (John 10:27-29)

Justified

This occurs in the innermost person: in my spirit.

1 Thess 5:23

