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# Our Mystical Union with Christ

## Colossians 2:6-7

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Paul uses the phrase “in Christ” or “in Him” or “with Christ” over 160 times in his epistles. In the verses that make up this section of Colossians (6-15), Paul uses the phrase nine times. Sinclair Ferguson once said, “Our mystical union with Christ is the greatest determining factor of the whole of the Christian Life.” If this statement is true, it is imperative to understand it correctly.

### I. The Experience of Being IN Christ

Although we often focus on our behaviors and in following the message of Christ, the Christian life is really more about our position – our being IN Christ. This idea is taught throughout Scripture and is first depicted through the idea of the Old Testament priest making atonement for all of Israel.

### II. The Source of Being IN Christ

Paul uses a metaphor of growth and a metaphor of building in order to teach this idea. In Jesus’s incarnation He united Himself with our humanity not just in a sentimental and comforting way, but also in a deeper, cosmic way. He also is our Federal Head. Just as in Adam we were all made sinners, so in Christ we are all made righteous.

### III. The Present Reality of Being IN Christ

When we truly grasp the idea of being IN Christ and Christ being IN us, it changes our lives. Christ becomes the focus of everything. We think about Him in traffic and when we are involved in our day-to-day activities. The knowledge that we are IN Christ and that He is IN us should change us when we are tempted to sin. Our lives should overflow with thanksgiving for the eternal riches that are ours.

## Discussion Questions

1. Describe the difference between receiving Christ and receiving the message of Christ.
2. What are the two metaphors Paul uses in defining what it means to be IN Christ and how does that impact your understanding of this truth?
3. Discuss the idea of the “Federal Head.” (In Adam we all are sinners and in Christ we are all made righteous.)
4. Explain the significance of the incarnation as it pertains to the idea of being in Christ.

5. How is the Old Testament example of the High Priest making atonement an example of that Federal Headship?

### Going Deeper

1. How does being in Christ affect your life? Your thoughts? Your motivations?
2. How should the idea of being in Christ affect you when you face temptation?
3. Verse seven tells us that we should be abounding in thanksgiving. What are you thankful for today?

### Resources

*Found in Him* by Elyse Fitzpatrick

Scriptures used in this sermon:

1. The Experience of Being IN Christ – Acts 9:3-5; John 15; Isaiah 53
2. The Source of Being IN Christ – Ephesians 1:3-4; Hebrews 2:10-16; Romans 5; Galatians 2:20