

CHRISTIANS BELONG TO JESUS

1 Corinthians 3:23

Introduction: For the Christian, it is not how much money he/she has in the bank or how much property he/she has that makes him or her wealthy for all those things are worldly things and temporary things. What makes the Christian so rich is not what HE/SHE possesses, but the fact that the Christian is the property of someone else, the Christian belongs to Jesus Christ.

I. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE CHRISTIAN DID NOT BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST

1. No doubt, the whole creation belongs to God, but Adam and Eve and everyone since them have alienated themselves from God by their sin and as long as a person continues to live in his/her sin, not turning to Jesus Christ for salvation, that person remains separated from God.
2. People without Jesus Christ don't belong to Him, but to themselves.
 - People are born into this world alienated from God and God's authority over them.
 - Through their lives, people live as they want, accepting no one's authority except their own.
 - SELF is first in the average person's life and little thought is given to God.
3. People without Jesus Christ don't belong to Him, but to the world.
 - The world is the authority over people automatically.
 - Born into the world, it is only "natural" to adopt and follow its ways of pleasure, riches, honoring "idols" the world gives.
 - Jesus declared that all such persons are not merely the friends of the world, but are the property of the world. (*John 15:19*)
4. People without Jesus Christ don't belong to Him, but to Satan.
 - Satan rules all those who don't belong to Jesus Christ as "god" and "prince" of this world.
 - He leads people captive at his will.
 - Every human being born starts out under Satan's control.
 - *Ephesians 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:26; 2 Corinthians 4:4*
 - Only by one's belief in Jesus Christ can he/she be delivered from Satan's control and brought back to his/her rightful owner, who is God.

II. THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST BELONG ONLY TO HIM

1. Jesus Christ is heir and Lord of all things. Both people and angels (fallen as well) are subject to His control.
 - However believers belong to Jesus in a more peculiar manner:
 - They are His people (*Titus 2:14*), His Bride (*Revelation 21:9*), and His very members. (*Ephesians 5:30*)

2. Christians/believers have been given to Jesus by God, the Father.
 - From the very beginning God chose a people for Himself (*Ephesians 1:4*) and He has given them to Jesus to be redeemed by Him (*John 17:6*) and secured them to Jesus by an everlasting covenant. (*Psalms 89:34*)
3. Christians/believers belong to Jesus by His own purchase of each and every one.
 - Salvation is freely given to any who believe in Jesus, it was purchased at a most costly price.
 - Jesus gave His own human, physical life to ransom the those who would believe in Him.
 - The price Jesus paid was His own blood. (*1 Peter 1:19*)
4. Christians/believers belong to Jesus by the drawing of the Holy Spirit.
 - No person, on his/her own, would leave the world and go to Jesus for salvation.
 - All who are Christians/believers have been drawn to Jesus by the Holy Spirit. (*John 6:44*)
5. Christians/believers belong to Jesus by their own deliberate, voluntary choice.
 - All who belong to Jesus Christ are willingly His.
 - Each person who belongs to Jesus Christ willing accepted His offer of salvation, His way.
 - Every Christian/believer became such the very same way and each and every one belongs to Jesus Christ, for He has bought them with His blood.

III. CHRISTIANS/BELIEVERS HAVE A DUTY TO JESUS CHRIST

1. Christians/believers must live for Jesus Christ.
 - Using every thing they have, body and soul, their total lives only for Jesus Christ.
2. Christians/believers, having received such honor as belonging to Jesus Christ must walk worthy of their high calling from the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Christians/believers must remember that *"... 'they' are not 'their' own, but bought with a price, it is 'their' duty to glorify Him with 'their' body and 'their' spirit which are His..."*

CONCLUSION:

1. If YOU are not a Christian/believer, then you don't belong to Jesus Christ but:
 - to your own self
 - to the world
 - to Satan
 - upon your death you will not go to heaven, but to hell where Satan and all unbelievers will be.
2. If YOU are a Christian/believer, then you don't belong:
 - to yourself
 - to the world
 - to Satan
 - upon your death or Jesus Christ's return, you will go to heaven, to a place Jesus has prepared for you.