

## THE CHRISTIAN'S TWO POSITIONS BEFORE GOD

**Romans 5:1-2**

**Romans 6:23**

**1 Corinthians 15:1**

**Introduction:** The Christian has an unchangeable position before God and that is called his/her "standing." There is another position which the Christian has before God and it is constantly changing due to the imperfect life of the Christian and that position is called his/her "state."

- Think of a big, strong muscle bound man who can easily lift three men at the same time.
  - Now imagine that same man sick with the flu and cannot get out of bed.
  - His standing is that of a very strong man.
  - His state at that moment is that he is unable to stand.
  - His state changes but not his standing.
- Standing is the believer's place before God, provided by the work of Jesus, God's Son.
- State is the walk, everyday things, in the life of the believer which change from time to time.

### **I. THE CHRISTIAN/BELIEVER'S STANDING BEFORE GOD NEVER CHANGES !**

1. The Believer is in Christ:
  - The Believer is a part of the body of Christ, His Church, His Family.
  - The Believer is not condemned but has spiritual wisdom, righteousness, is sanctified, is redeemed, with all these things already done in God's mind.
  - The Believer is a new person, not the same as before becoming a part of God's Family.
  - The Believer will be physically changed when Jesus comes back for all of God's Family.
  - The Believer has complete spiritual blessings awaiting, different from day to day things.
2. The Believer is with Christ:
  - Jesus already lives within the believer. (Must be hard on Jesus).
  - Jesus helps the believer desire things from above, not down here.
3. The Believer is already sitting in Heavenly places:
  - With God, it is as if it has already happened. The believer's place is already ready.
4. Some facts about the Believer's standing before God: (As God sees things).
  - The believer has been bought, paid for, therefore already redeemed.
  - The believer's past is gone, been made right with God, therefore is already justified.
  - The believer was lost, damned, doomed but has been changed.
  - The believer has already been set apart for God only, therefore sanctified already.
  - The believer is already a permanent member of God's Family.
  - The believer already shares in Jesus' inheritance from God.
  - The believer is already indwelt with the Holy Spirit, therefore is permanently sealed and marked as belonging to God.
  - The believer is already glorified.
  - The believer's standing before God has been secured by the blood of Jesus Christ.

## **II. THE CHRISTIAN/BELIEVER'S STATE BEFORE GOD IS ALWAYS CHANGING**

1. God has a lot of decisions for people to make:
  - God tells people that they are a sinful lot, worthless as they are, worthy of His wrath.
  - God then gives people a choice of Heaven or Hell, to accept Jesus or to reject Him.
  - Accepting Jesus makes one a believer, a Christian, but there are still choices to be made, such as, how is life then to be lived as a different person?
  - How the believer lives after becoming a Christian thus becomes the "state" before God.
2. The believer is a permanent child of God in standing but the daily life of the believer is always changing, obedience, disobedience, sinful, rebellious, lazy, weak, strong, one day this, the next day something else. The state before God is always changing, but the believer is still a child of God in standing.
3. God has His way He wants the believer to live:
  - He wants the believer to be blameless, harmless, not to start trouble.
  - He wants the believer to leave the world alone, the world is not his/her home anymore.
  - He wants the believer to live/walk by faith, not by things seen.
  - He wants the believer to live by His plans for his/her life.
  - He wants the believer to live the kind of life Jesus lived.
  - He wants the believer to let the Holy Spirit control all areas of his/her life.
  - He wants the believer to carry His and the Family Name, "child of God" worthily.
  - He wants the believer to use his/her time on earth for what God wants him/her to do.
  - He wants the believer to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus, Lord and Savior.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Christians/Believers, you are the sons and daughters of Almighty God! Act like it!
2. God is wanting to bring others into His family using those already in His family. If you were the only example of a christian/believer God had, how many would become christians by looking at the example you are setting?
3. "Standing" is a permanent position before God. "State" is the changing position of a believer before God according to his/her obedience or disobedience.
  - God already has the "State" of the believer planned out, the believer just needs to do what God has planned.
4. Jesus takes care of the believer's standing before God. The believer takes care of his/her state before God.
5. What is YOUR standing before God? What is YOUR state before God?