

WHERE THE CHRISTIAN LIVES

Ephesians 1:1

Introduction: Where does the Christian live? "Well, that's a silly question" some may say, "they live where everybody else lives..." That's what most people think of Christians today and sadly, that's what most Christians think about themselves as well. However, if thought is given to it, the Christian has three areas to his/her life and two of those areas, non Christians don't know anything about.

I. THE CHRISTIAN LIVES IN CHRIST

1. "Living in Christ" is a term not used very much anymore.
 - We ask about one's business, or profession, but how often do we ask "are you in Christ?"
 - "In Christ" means to be grounded and attached to Christ like a vine is to branches.
 - Paul uses that term "in Christ" over 150 times as he spoke about forgiveness, salvation, assurance, holiness, direction, service and being forever "in Christ."
2. *2 Corinthians 5:17*
3. Paul writes of taking God's Will and applying it to our lives, the source of our strength, our proper place, our message, and our work is all related to God's Will.
4. No matter how weak, ungifted, frail or faulty, we can be encouraged for God already knows all this.'
5. The Christian's life in Christ is such that he/she takes his/her eyes off his/her own limitations and desires and looks at God and God makes one equal to what He wants him/her to do.
6. Each Christian has a calling and he/she is in Christ. Let every Christian be in God's Will.

II. THE CHRISTIAN LIVES WITH THE SAINTS

1. Again, one of God's Words has been misused and ruined by people - "Saints."
 - "Oh, he's just a saint..." People have assigned "saint" to anybody who does anything kind or good to anybody else.
 - God's definition of "Saint" is that of holiness. Something or somebody God sets apart for Himself.
 - Nobody but God can make anybody a "Saint"- *1 Peter 2:9*
2. Christians are to glorify God in their bodies - why?
 - It is not watching out for sin so much as it is that the body of the Christian is the temple of God, the Holy Spirit indwells every Christian, thus God is glorified in the body of the Christian.
3. God's Children want to be together, apart from the rest of the world, therefore they are called the "set apart ones," the "called out ones" for fellowship among themselves.

- There are many fine organizations but none can take the place of Christian fellowship found within the Church.
- No language can replace God's language, God's Word.
- Christians are holy, they are God's Saints, they are Children of the Lord.

III. THE CHRISTIAN LIVES IN THE WORLD

1. The Christian lives "in Christ," "with the Saints," and also in the world.
- *Revelation 2:13*
2. Although the Christian has to continue to live in the world till the Lord calls him/her home, there is no reason to be afraid for as a ship is on the ocean, with water all around, the water is on the outside and only when the water gets on the INSIDE is there danger.
3. Christians live in floods of all sorts of things that could bring disaster IF they ever got on the inside, such as iniquity, blasphemy, unbelief, ridicule, sinful attitude, etc.
- None of these things will ever bother the Christian as long as they stay on the outside.
4. Christians are in Christ, with the Saints, even in the world.

CONCLUSION:

1. Whether the world knows it or know or even cares or not, the Christian is different from non-Christians.
2. The Christian lives his/her life "in Christ," with God's assistance and assurance and purpose.
3. The Christian lives his/her life surrounded by people God has set apart for Himself, other Christians who are called "Saints." People who are indwelt with the Holy Spirit therefore making their bodies a sacred place, a temple, belonging to God.
4. The Christian also lives in the world just like everybody else does, however he/she is not flooded with the affairs of the world even though surrounded by sinful and worldly things. The Christian rises above, floats through all the worldly corruption with the help of the Holy Spirit.
5. Yes, the Christian is in the world, but not of the world. The Christian is IN Jesus Christ.