

“The Essentials Of Our Faith”

Session XVI
January 30, 2011

“IDENTIFICATION” TRUTH: The Believer’s “Position” In Christ

The “Identification Truths” are God’s remedy for the endless cycle of struggle and failure which many genuine Christians experience in their day-to-day lives.

- After being saved by God’s grace, most Christians assume that it is their responsibility to “live for Christ”. This assumption is based on the belief that they have the ability, if they are sincere, to live a holy life.
- After being a Christian for a period of time, many sincere Christians reach the place of total frustration and failure in their attempt to “live for Christ.” They have tried, but have failed repeatedly. Two options stand before them: To blame themselves and “try harder” to succeed at living the Christian life; or, to blame God and conclude, “it doesn’t work!”

In our previous study, we observed that God has made a provision for every Christian’s success in living the Christian life. However, His ways are not our ways!

- Our way is to attempt to solve the problem in our own strength and ability – to “look to ourselves” by resorting to some form of “discipline” or “dedication”;
- His way is to bring us to “look to Christ” and see that the work has already been done! Just as Christ is God’s provision for our **Justification** (freedom from the penalty of sin), so He is God’s provision for our **Sanctification** (freedom from the power of sin).

How then does the Christian life work? How can I understand it?

I. The Christian life is lived by “_____”, Heb. 11:6.

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

- Everything in our relationship with God is determined by the principle of **faith**:
 - a. We are saved by **faith** in God’s provision→John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9.
 - b. We are sanctified by **faith** in God’s provision→Eph. 1:3; Heb. 12:2; II Pet. 1:3.

II. The Christian life is lived by faith in the “_____” of God’s Word.

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth,” John 17:17.

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free,” John 8:32.

Foundation “Facts” from Romans Chapter Six:

A. Fact: The Believer has been “Baptized” into _____, Rom. 6:3.

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus . . .”

→ Key: “Baptized” = “to immerse”; “to place into”.

→ Key: At the moment of salvation, the Believer is placed “into Christ”, a position that can never change → eternal security!
(See: 1 Cor. 12:13 → “Spirit” baptism “into” Christ)

B. Fact: The Believer has been “Baptized” into Christ’s _____, Rom. 6:3.

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death.”

→ Key: “Baptized” = “to immerse”; “to place into”.

We participated in what happened to Him!

→ Key: He “_____” to sin; we “_____” to sin!

“ . . . we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death,”
Rom. 6:5.

“Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with (rendered inoperative, powerless),” Rom. 6:6.

“Who died on the Cross? Of course, our blessed Lord died on the Cross; but who else died there?”
--William Culbertson

C. Fact: The Believer has been “United” with Christ’s _____, Rom. 6:4, 5, 11.

“ . . . so as Christ was raised from the dead . . . so we too might walk in newness of life.”

“For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.”

“Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

→ Key: “United” = “to be made **one** with”.

→ Key: What happened to Him, happened to the Believer!

“Believers in Christ were joined to Him at the Cross, united to Him in death and resurrection. We died with Christ. He died for us, and we died with Him. This is a great fact, true of all Believers.” --L.E. Maxwell

III. The Christian life is lived by the fact of the Believer's "_____" in Jesus Christ.

--The "Facts" of Galatians 2:20.

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."*

--The "Facts" of Colossians 3:1-4.

"Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God . . .

For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

. . . Christ, who is our life . . ."

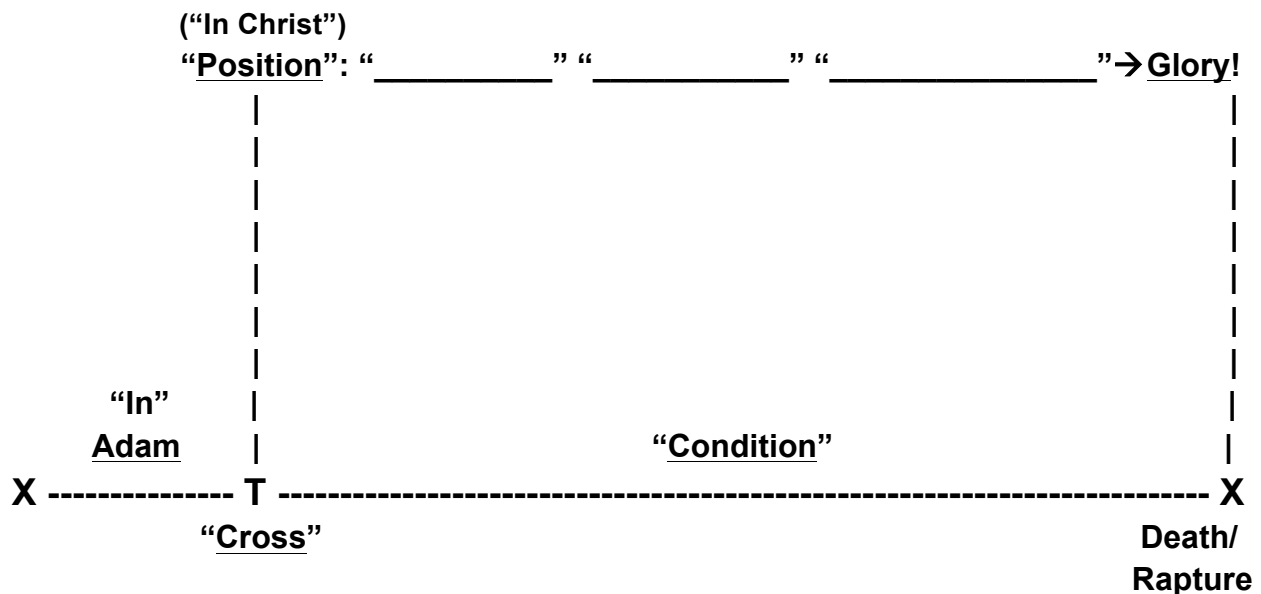
The Principle of "Position"

*"All spiritual life and growth is based upon the principle of position. It can be summed up in one word: '**Source**'. Through physical birth we entered our human family position, from which source we derived certain characteristics. We are the product of our position. Just so in our spiritual birth. When we are born again, the risen Lord Jesus is the **source** of our Christian life; in Him we are positioned before our Father, in whom 'we live, and move, and have our being' (Acts 17:28) . . . Our Father, in redeeming and recreating us, 'raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, **in Christ Jesus**' (Eph. 2:6).*

*Our **position**, the 'source' of our Christian life, is **perfect**. It is eternally established in the Father's presence. When we received the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior, the Holy Spirit caused us to be born **into Him**. He created us in the **position** that was established through His work at Calvary. 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation)', II Cor. 5:17. This is the **eternal position** in which every Believer has been placed, whether he is aware of it or not. The Christian who comes to SEE his position in the Lord Jesus begins to EXPERIENCE the benefit of all he is in Him. His daily state is developed from the source of his eternal standing.*

*We take our **position**, not by attempting to get into it, but simply by seeing that we are **already** positioned in the Lord Jesus. We **abide** in Him by resting in the **fact**. We have been in this **risen position** ever since our new birth. As we come to realize this truth and to 'stand in our standing' in Him, we begin to experience the daily benefits of our life that 'is hid with Christ in God.' Our attitude becomes, 'I **see** my position in the Lord Jesus, and I **abide** there; I **rest** in Him, not only as my Savior, but as my **Life**. Faith in our **position** will bring growth in our condition."*

--Miles Stanford



Taking Our “Position”

“Our Father intends us to know and understand that He has already provided, in Christ our **Life**, everything required of our Christian life both in time and eternity. He is patiently teaching us to have no faith in the **old man** (self), and to exercise all of our faith in the **new Man** (Christ). We are told to do in faith what our Father has already done in fact. At the Cross, He freed us from the reign of sin and self; in the Resurrection, He united us to the risen Lord Jesus. By faith in the work of the Cross, the **old man** is ‘put off’; by faith in our heavenly position in Christ, the **new man** is ‘put on’.

By considering the **old man** to have been crucified at Calvary, he is ‘**put off**’ daily (Rom. 6:11a). By considering ourselves as newly created in the risen Lord Jesus, we ‘**put on**’ the **new man** (Rom. 6:11b). As we escape self’s reign of death, we enter into Christ’s reign of **life**.

1. Put Off the Old:

- a. Fact:** Positionally, we are separated from the old Adamic nature in our identification with Christ on the Cross, Rom. 6:6; Col. 3:9.
- b. Faith:** By faith in our new, sanctified position, we turn from, we consider as crucified, the principle of sin and self within. We count ourselves to be new creations in Christ, having died to sin and self. That is our part in ‘putting off’ the old man that God “put off” at the Cross, Eph. 4:22.

2. Put On the New:

- a. Fact:** At our new birth we were recreated in Christ, and our Christian life is now hid with Him in God, Col. 3:3,4.
- b. Faith:** By faith in the positional fact that our Father has placed us in His Son, we abide in Him, we acknowledge our place in Him. By faith, we stand in the position He has already given us, Rom. 13:14; Eph. 4:24; 6:14)”

--Miles Stanford