



Death in Adam, Life in Christ

How to do this study:

Union with Christ was such a precious truth to the Apostle Paul, you can barely read a sentence in one of his letters without coming across it. This doctrine serves as the foundation to everything Paul writes about God's saving work in man. Paul used the phrase "in Christ" (and others like it) over 160 times in his letters. It comes up so often in his writing, we could make the claim that it is his most characteristic phrase, and certainly his favorite expression for describing believers.

In the book of Romans, Paul shows us why union with Christ is necessary. As we saw briefly in chapter two of *Help! I'm Doubting*, every person begins life "in Adam." Adam—the first man—serves as the representative of the human race. All who come after Adam not only share in his sinful condition but also in the consequences of his disobedience (Romans 5:12, 18-19).

Standing before God *outside of Christ* results in terrible consequences because a holy God must judge sin. All who are "in Adam" live under God's condemnation and face the sentence of eternal death (Romans 5:12). This is distressing news for those who remain "in Adam." The human race needs a new representative.

Jesus Christ—the second Adam—came to serve as a new and better representative for all who believe *into Him*. Just as being "in Adam" led to certain inevitable consequences, so does being "in Christ."

Use the study guide below to read what Scripture says about these two representatives for yourself. Humbly ask the Lord to help you better understand this precious doctrine.

- **Step 1:**

Prayerfully read through **Romans chapters 5-6**. Look for what these chapters communicate about the position of being "in Adam." What do those who are "in Adam" **share** with him? What are the **results** of being in this position? Use the chart at the end of this study to keep a running list of everything you learn (see the example).

Optional: As you read, use a colored pencil to mark any form of the words "sin" (yellow) and "death" (black) every time they appear in these two chapters.

- **Step 2:**

Prayerfully read through **Romans chapters 5-6** again. This time, look for what these chapters communicate about the position of being "in Christ." What do those who are "in Christ" **share** with Him? What are the **results** of being in this position? Use the chart below to keep a running list of everything you learn (see the example).

Optional: As you read, use a colored pencil to mark any form of the words "grace" (red) and "life" (green) every time they appear in these two chapters.

- **Step 3:**

Prayerfully apply what you learned to your own life. Use the following questions to prompt your thinking.

<i>My Response:</i>
With which “man” do you identify? Why?
According to Romans 5:1-2, how does God move people out of union with Adam and into union with Christ?
Read Romans 5:21 and 6:23 again. These verses summarize Paul’s whole argument—showing the ultimate end of being “in Adam” and the ultimate end of being “in Christ.” In your own words, provide a short summary of what you learned from Romans 5-6:
If you chose to highlight the words <i>sin</i> , <i>death</i> , <i>grace</i> , and <i>life</i> in your Bible, what stood out to you?
If you are “in Christ,” did the Lord reveal any ways that you live as if you were still “in Adam?” What needs to change so that your life better demonstrates the reality that you have been taken out of Adam and placed into Christ? Ask God to help you live like what you are!

- **Step 4:**

The temptation we have with any doctrine is to make it about us. (We like to put ourselves at the center of the story.) When we talk about being “in Christ” we are not just saying something about ourselves, “we are saying something far more tremendous about Jesus” (James Stewart). While union with Christ has many benefits for the believer, ultimately, union with Christ isn’t about us. It’s about God. Even a quick read through Romans 5 with this focus, shows a God of mercy, love, and grace behind every action taken to secure our salvation.

God's purposes are far bigger than us. He is redeeming and restoring a people for His own possession, *to the praise of the glory of His grace* (Ephesians 1:6).

End your time in God's Word by praising God for Who He is and what He has done. Because of His heart for you—His abundant mercy and grace—He made a way to draw you near to Himself. So near, that He united you to His Son!

In Adam	In Christ
5:12; 5:14-15— <i>sin and death</i>	5:9— <i>saved from the wrath of God</i>