

### iii) The Effect

'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me'  
*Galatians 2:20*

'We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?' *Rms 6:2*

'there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.' *Rms 8:1*

#### Our death in Christ sets us free ...

**From Self:** 'I have been crucified with Christ' - the weak old life, the 'I' you've struggled to change, the 'I' which kept letting you down is dead - you died!

**From Sin:** you 'died to sin' - you don't have to sin any more, you have choice.

**From the law of sin and death:** the 'law of sin and death' meant that when we sinned we were condemned. But a dead person can't be condemned – you are free! Now 'the law of the Spirit' working in us and for us has set us free.

Our old life was 'hostile to God .. does not submit to God's law ... cannot please'  
*Rms 8:7-8*. That's why God crucified it in Christ.

God knew that our old life could never please Him. He crucified it in Christ so that Christ could live in us by His Spirit. The old must go before the new can come.

We long to know Christ living & working in us but the starting point is to know the death of our old life. To know our death in Christ is the start of freedom.

This is for every Christian, it's your birthright in Christ. Ask Him to help you see.

#### Pause for Personal Prayer



Lord help me to see: 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live'

#### Discuss



- Where do you lose your freedom eg fear, temper, fear, selfishness ...?
- Have you tried to change? Did it work, did it last?
- What difference could knowing that you are dead in Christ make?

#### Taking it Further

As you go into a room this week imagine that you're entering into Christ. Close the door behind you and sit down and give thanks. Then take time to walk around the room exploring where you already are. Reflect on the Bible passages in this study.



## In Christ – in His Death

True rest comes from knowing who we are and where we are in Christ. True fruitfulness comes from living in that place.

Imagine you've just entered your house - you're inside, you're in your house. Everything you need is there at hand so that you can rest, eat and even work.

The Scriptures tell us that when you gave your life to God, Christ not only came to live in you by His Holy Spirit but God wonderfully placed you in Christ.

When you gave your life to Christ, God took your life and by His grace placed you into Christ, Christ became your spiritual home. In Christ is all you need to rest, eat and even begin to walk and work with Him.

If we're not careful much of our Christian life can be spent trying to become who God has already made us in Christ. Or trying to get where He has already placed us by grace.

We struggle to change rather than rest in who we are, we pray asking for what we already have, we work rather than seeing what God has already done.

Once we're in, the joy is simply to explore and share where God has placed us.

In this short series we try to explore where we are in Christ – what it means for you and I to be in His death, in His resurrection and in His glorious Ascension.

#### A suggested outline for the session

Open with worship and prayer

Divide your time between the 3 sections  
In each of the 3 sections ...

- . Ask someone to read the scripture & reflection
- . Pause for a few minutes of personal prayer
  - . Then discuss the questions given
- . At the end allow 10 mins for personal prayer

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## i) In Christ

'Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here' *2 Cor 5:17 NIV*

'For in him we live and move and have our being' *Acts 17:28*

God 'has blessed us ... with every spiritual blessing in Christ' *Eph 1:3*

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you' *John 14:20*  
See also *John 15:4*

'Therefore if anyone is in Christ' - what does it mean to be 'in'?

'In' means 'in' – inside - 'in'. A foot in a shoe, a hand in a glove ...  
So what does it mean to be 'in Christ'?

Imagine jumping into a deep, deep river. The water above you, around you, below you, filling your eyes, ears and mouth.

When you gave your life to Christ He came to live in you by His Spirit - 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' *Col 1:27*.

We drank living water and His Spirit became in us a spring *Jn 4:14*.

But just as crucially, God also placed you in Christ, in the River (*Pss 46:4*).  
'in him we live and move and have our being' - gloriously in Christ.

God has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in Christ - note the past tense of 'has' - this is not something to aspire to, it's happened.

As soon as you gave your life to Christ He came to live in you by His Spirit but then God also placed your life safely in Christ, He became your new spiritual home - 'you are in me, and I am in you' *Jn 14:20*.



### Pause for Personal Prayer



Don't try to understand, just accept – 'you are in me, and I am in you'

### Discuss



- What does it mean to be 'in' eg what does it mean to be 'in' the room where you are now? Discuss.
- What does it mean for Christ to live in you? Discuss.
- What does it mean for each of us to be 'in Christ'? Discuss.

## ii) Our Death in Christ



'don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death ... For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.' *Romans 6:3-5*

'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me' *Galatians 2:20*

'Don't you know that' when you gave your life to Christ you were 'baptised into His death ...buried with Him through baptism into death'?

The truth is 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live ...'. It doesn't matter what we feel or think, it's what God says.

'No longer' means not for another second or breath -'I no longer live'.

The old, weak life which you and I were born with wasn't able to please God, it would always fail – *Romans 7:18, Rms 8:3,7-8*.

And so when we gave our lives to Christ God buried us with Christ into Christ's death, His death became my death, His death became your death.

We were 'united with him in a death like his' ...'crucified with Christ'.

We'll see why this is so important in a moment but this truth is the start of our freedom. We no longer need to try to change ourselves or struggle with our own weakness - we have died in Christ - we 'no longer live'.

Many sincere Christian spend years trying to change themselves, trying to become what they think a good Christian should be – patient, kind etc. They try in vain to stop loosing their temper, worrying, being fearful ...

But God knew that we couldn't help ourselves and so He placed us in Christ's death – a dead person can't try to change, they no longer live!

### Pause for Personal Prayer



Pause to pray on these words: 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me' *Gal 2:20*

### Discuss



- Read *Galatians 2:20* aloud. What does 'no longer' mean? – Discuss.
- Do you believe that you 'no longer' live?
- What makes sense and what questions do you have?