

The Doctrine of Salvation
The Central Link - Union with Christ
Ephesians 1:1-14

Intro:

I. The Definition of a Christian

Philippians 1:1 "Paul and Timothy, servants *of* Christ Jesus,
To all the saints *in Christ Jesus* who are at Philippi....

Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brothers *in Christ* at
Colossae:

Romans 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my
fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, *and they
were in Christ before me.*

II. Defining the Term: "in Christ"

A. Corporate Representation

B. Organic Union

Ephesians 1:3 (ESV). Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who has *blessed us in Christ* with every spiritual blessing in the
heavenly places...

⁴ even as he *chose us in him* before the foundation of the world, that
we should be holy and blameless before him.

⁷ *In him we have redemption* through his blood, the *forgiveness of our
trespasses,*

¹¹ *In him we have obtained an inheritance,*

¹³ *In him you also,* when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your
salvation, and believed in him, *were sealed with the promised Holy
Spirit,*

Justification – Romans 8:1

Sanctification - 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to
those *sanctified in Christ Jesus.*

III. The Difference it Makes

1. It will change how you think about your identity as a Christian.
2. It will change how you think about grace.
3. Provides the key to growth in holiness.
4. Gives us confidence in prayer.