

## **“YOU BELONG TO CHRIST”**

**Intro:** Through the years I’ve often heard people make the statement, "I belong to the church of Christ". What we intend to say I think is that we are members of the Lord's body. However, the church is not an institution that we "belong to" as such but rather it is simply the people who are saved. In the NT it is never said that people belonged to the church, but notice what it does say:

*"You belong to Christ" (I Cor. 3:23).*

**There is good reason why that statement is made.**

*“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)*

**If only as God's people we could continually remember that we belong to Christ. It would radically change our lives three ways!**

### **IT WOULD MAKE US MORE FAITHFUL**

*And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Galatians 3:29)*

***Two thousand years before Christ God made a remarkable promise to Abraham. At first Abraham's name was Abram (exalted father). He was childless; but God promised him that he would bless him and make him a father of a multitude and changed his name to reflect that idea (Abraham means father of a multitude). Paul explains that God's promise was not merely the promise of many physical descendants. Instead it was a prophecy of a spiritual posterity.***

*For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it is by faith, that it might be in accordance with grace, in order that the promise may be certain to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (Romans 4:13-16)*

***Do you see what Paul is saying? To be a true child of Abraham one must be “of the faith of Abraham”.***

**Like Abraham, we'll trust God for pardon of sins rather than trust in our own works (Rom. 4:2-3)**

**Like Abraham, we'll obey God promptly and without questioning even when he asks us to do difficult things.**

**Like Abraham, we'll believe God's promises even when we can't see how they might be fulfilled!**

***When we remember that we belong to Christ, it will make us more faithful!***

## IT WOULD MAKE US LESS SINFUL

*Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:24)*

***To crucify the flesh is to purposely destroy the impulses that lead to the sins that Paul enumerates in v. 19-21.***

*Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)*

***This crucifixion of the flesh is symbolized in baptism.***

*Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, 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 be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.*

*(Romans 6:3-7)*

***But this crucifixion of the flesh is implemented on a daily basis as we "make no provision for the flesh" (Rom. 13:14.)***

*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. (Romans 13:14)*

***If we belong to Christ we will recognize that our bodies as well as spirits belong to Him and must be used in that which will bring glory to Him and not live in sin.***

*Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)*

***When we realize what it means to belong to Christ, we will want to glorify God with our bodies and our spirits and will perfect holiness in the fear of God. We will be more faithful, less sinful, and...***

## IT WOULD MAKE US MORE HOPEFUL

*And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Galatians 3:29)*

**The Hebrew writer explains what that promise meant to Abraham.**

*For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you." And thus, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every*

*dispute. In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. (Hebrews 6:13-18)*

**Thus, our hope is eternal life with God in heaven.**

*in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, (Titus 1:2)*

***Knowing that we belong to Christ should give us the greatest hope and consolation in this life. For if we belong to Him, we are heirs of eternal life He has promised.***

**Conclusion: Belonging to Christ does indeed place upon us serious responsibilities; but it also assures us the greatest blessings not only in this life, but also in the world to come. Think of what a privilege it is to say "I belong to Christ".**

**Do you belong to Christ?**