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**Confession:** *This is my Bible, the Living Word of God. I am, what the Word says I am. I have, what the Word says I have. I can do, everything the Word says I can do, and I will do it, in Jesus Name!*

**Text: 1 Corinthians 1:30** It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

**Introduction:** Paul writes to the Corinthians who had gotten into sectarianism (the strong support for a particular religious or political group.) Strife had gotten into the church as they had taken up strong positions stating that “I follow Paul” and his teaching, or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,” or “I follow Christ” as if Christ was somehow divided or in their eyes even diminished to being a party leader equal with the others.

The Greeks had long prided themselves in free thinking and philosophical debates on many issues and this same habit had carried over into the church. Paul writes to them to anchor their identity in something far more secure that human wisdom or legalistic rule following—the simple Gospel Message: “It is because of Him that you are IN Christ Jesus.” This first chapter deals with correcting their theology and it summed up in verse 30. In one sentence, Paul dismantles their human pride and so-called wisdom and unveils the riches of divine grace given to us IN Christ. Today, we are going to unpack these six phrases that reveal the foundation, location, and our identity IN Christ.

1. **The Source of All Good – “It is because of Him”**
2. Paul opens this verse by pointing to the Source of everything good in our life: God Himself.
3. Because of: ex (ex) from the point an action or motion proceeds, out of a place, time, or cause, origin, source
4. Paul uses the Greek phrase ex autou— “because of Him”— pointing to God as the Author and Source of our salvation and reconciliation rather than self-efforts.
5. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
6. Our union with Christ is a gift from God, not an achievement on our part. This dismantles pride, replacing it with humility, and anchors our confidence in His unfailing (Agape) love for us.
7. Paul’s emphasis in this phrase is to point out that it was not on our efforts but the love of the Father that caused Him to send His Son, and that salvation IN Christ has come to us.
8. We are God-made new creations, not self-made achievers.
9. **1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.
10. Just as the first son of God, Adam sinned thereby causing all men to sin. Jesus Christ is the second Adam, Who came that through Him all men who believe might live.
11. God did in Christ what He wanted to do and every man—restoring the sons of God as though sin never happened.
12. **Our New Identity – “That You Are in Christ Jesus”**
13. Have you ever asked, “Who am I?”
14. The world is obsessed with self-definition—through careers, relationships, color of skin, genders, species, achievements, or failures—the Word of God offers a radically different answer.
15. To be “in Christ Jesus” is a positional reality that defines our identity.
16. **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!
17. Imagine Noah in the ark. The ark was a type of Christ in that Noah and his family entered into it by faith, and it carried them safely through judgment. When they entered in the ark, they knew that they were leaving the past behind and destined for a new cleansed world with a fresh start.
18. Just as there was one door into the Ark, Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father and Eternal Life.
19. Like entering Noah’s ark, when we step by faith into Christ, we are leaving our past sinful self behind, delivered from judgement, and immediately enter the Promise Land - the Kingdom of God. (Colossians 1:12-14)
20. To give a further picture of what it means to be “IN Christ” Paul presents these four key qualities that belong to the believer which are all rooted in this positional Truth.
21. **Incarnate Wisdom: “who has become for us wisdom from God:”**
22. Wisdom: sophia (sof-ee'-ah) supreme wisdom, foreknowledge, insight, cleverness, acquired knowledge through learning
23. In context wisdom is not cleverness or acquired knowledge through learning but it is Incarnate Truth, Jesus Christ.
24. The Corinthians sought wisdom through knowledge and philosophical debate which led to strife and divisions in the local church which was leading them away from the simplicity of the Gospel.
25. Note: They had received the Gospel but they did not have the New Testament to turn to as we do as so they started mixing it religious ideas and they ended up in confusion. (Reading our Bible is a safeguard against deception.)
26. Paul is writing to them stating that if you are searching for wisdom look no further than Christ Jesus and Him alone.
27. The wisdom of God is the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. This is the wisdom that confounds the proud but exalts the humble.
28. **Philemon 1:6** I pray that your partnership in the faith may become effective as you fully acknowledge every good thing that is ours **in Christ**.
29. IN Christ we start from our identity IN Him or from this position of Truth in the Spirit and then we live it out in this world.
30. Christ Jesus is made unto us Wisdom. Partner with Him by acknowledging according to His Word – This is who I am, this is what I have, and this is what I can do, now that I am IN Him!
31. **Imputed and Imparted Righteousness: “our righteousness,”**
32. Righteousness: dikaiosuné (dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay) justice, justness, righteousness, righteousness of which God is the Source: a divine righteousness. The condition or state of being as such as we ought to be, righteousness according to God.
33. Righteousness is a legal concept found in courtroom language: the gavel has fallen, and the verdict is “not guilty.” More than that, it states that we are “fully accepted” by our Father God because of our position, IN Christ.
34. **Hebrews 10:12-23** But when this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time, He waits for His enemies to be made a footstool for His feet, because by a single offering He has made perfect for all time those who are being sanctified. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First He says: “This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord. I will put My laws in their hearts and inscribe them on their minds.” Then He adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” And where these have been forgiven, an offering for sin is no longer needed. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain of His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
35. Our righteousness is not just imputed—it is imparted.
36. In Christ, we are declared righteous—" dikaiosuné”—not because of our performance but because of His Righteous Blood that was shed for us.
37. At our new birth we are called to the leave the past behind life of sin and selfish pursuits behind and walk in the Life of Christ being empowered by the Holy Spirit.
38. **Positional and Progressive Holiness: “our holiness”**
39. Holiness: hagiasmos (hag-ee-as-mos') sanctification, it means to be set apart and consecrated to God for His special purpose, or to make holy, or pure. It is the removing of our lives from one place to another to be used by God for His purpose. It is a spiritual state whereby we become holy like God, take on the character of Christ and manifest it to the world.
40. We are set apart, not just from sin, but made ready for God and His purpose in and through our lives.
41. **1 Peter 1:13-16** Therefore prepare your minds for action. Be sober-minded. Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not conform to the passions of your former ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
42. In Christ, we have been made holy positionally while also being progressively transformed to walk with Him living a holy life.
43. Picture a wedding ring: it marks us as belonging to Christ. We now are made one with Christ as His Bride, sharing His Life. He is the Head of the Church and we are His Body. The Head directs the Body how to live the Life of Christ and we respond accordingly.
44. We are to set our hope fully on the grace we have IN Christ and allow Holy Spirit to prune us, purify us, conform us to the image of Christ, and live a holy or set apart life unto Him.
45. **Ransomed: “our redemption”**
46. Redemption: apolutrósis (ap-ol-oo'-tro-sis) a release effected by payment of ransom, re-purchasing (winning back) what was previously forfeited (lost)." looks back to God's effective work of grace, purchasing them from the debt of sin and bringing them to their new status (being in Christ).
47. **1 Peter 1:18-19** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life you inherited from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or spot.
48. In Christ, we are bought back from slavery to sin, shame, and death. The price was His blood. The result is our freedom.
49. Redemption is not just a past event—it is an ever-present reality.
50. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places—already equipped with His wisdom, clothed in His righteousness, set apart in His holiness, and rescued by His redemption.
51. This Scripture along with all other “IN Christ” Scriptures serve as a spiritual passport. Our identity is sealed IN Christ, His story has become our story, His Life our Life, His Victory our victory, with entrance into the Kingdom, and its resources.
52. **Living from Position: Four Practical Steps**
53. Commit to living from your positional reality—"IN Christ.”
54. Start each day declaring: “I am in Christ; I am righteous, holy, and free.”
55. Invite Holy Spirit to reveal the Life of Christ every thought, word, and action so that you can live a holy life unto Him.
56. Release others from judgment as you have been released, reflecting the ransom paid for you and them by His Blood.
57. **Conclusion**
58. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places—already equipped with His wisdom, clothed in His righteousness, set apart in His holiness, and rescued by His redemption.
59. Take time today to rest in these gifts rather than striving under their weight.
60. Meditate on the four qualities our union with Christ. See yourself through eyes of God, in His Word.

**Four Qualities Rooted in Our Union**

| **Greek Term** | **English** | **Meaning** | **Application** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| sophia | wisdom | Incarnate insight from God’s perspective | Live from the Truth IN Christ, not human cleverness, or learning |
| dikaiosuné | righteousness | Legal standing of “not guilty” | Rest in our accepted standing before the Father |
| hagiasmos | holiness | Set-apart life, progressive purity | Yield to the Spirit’s work of transformation |
| apolutrósis | redemption | Release by ransom | Walk in freedom, no longer enslaved to sin |