

Study #6: Life in Christ

In this study we will look at an overview of the Life in Christ as a new creation.

***Review:** How are you feeling about Jesus' Kingship?

1– Eph. 5: 8-10, Walk with God! Walk in the Light! Find out what pleases Him.

A- A life in Christ means spending time with God and learning how to walk with him. (*Rom. 8:14*—A life in Christ means following his spirit day by day.)

2- Acts 2: 42– 47 Life in Christ- Fellowship and spiritual growth.

A– Group Question: Describe the atmosphere and practices of these new Christians!

3– Rom. 12: 6-8 Life in Christ– Serving

A- What gifts has God blessed you with? Are you excited to build others up using those gifts to serve?

4– 1 Cor. 11: 23-32 Life in Christ- The Lord's Table (also called Lord's Supper/Communion)

A- In addition to a time of worship, the local church gathers each week to spiritually partake (commune with, fellowship with) of the Body (represented by the bread) and the Blood (represented by the fruit of the vine) of Jesus.

B- We should prepare spiritually to take this meal. Spiritually we are assembling to meet the risen Christ together at his Table. We don't need to be perfect to take the Lord's Supper. We need sincerity (earnestness). No matter how far we drifted that week, the Lord's Supper is a time to refocus on Jesus, experiencing his love, forgiveness, and power, and edification. We should leave his table feeling stronger spiritually!

C– **Read Heb. 10: 19-23.** We meet him at his Table because his death, burial, and resurrection provide ongoing spiritual power to live the Christian life. Our hearts receive something from Jesus during this sacred meal when practiced with faith. The Lord's Table is a time to deeply connect with Christ.

D- We offer him our gratitude, our love, our devotion, and repentance as we spend time with the Lord and with one another, partaking of his presence and his power together.

E- We proclaim his death until he comes. Together as an assembly we are declaring our allegiance that Jesus is Lord, that his death-burial-resurrection saved us, and that we await his return!

F- The Lord's Supper is one of the imparts his ongoing grace, faithfulness, and spiritual strengthening to us as we partake of his supper together at the table. (*1 Cor. 1:8, 1 Cor. 10:16*)

5- **2 Cor. 8:7, 2 Cor. 9:7 Life in Christ— Financial Giving**

A- God blesses us with resources and asks us to excel in the grace of giving financially to the work of Christ, just as our goal is to excel in other areas of our spiritual walk. Our giving should be given freely, and as a response of gratitude and devotion to God. Biblically financial giving should be generous, sacrificial, and consistent (*Matt. 6: 19-20*).

B- **1 Tim. 6:10** Greed is out of bounds for Christians. It will rob our faith.

C- One great way to determine a weekly amount is to ask Jesus what you should be giving, and start giving the amount that he puts on your heart! (*James 1: 5-6*)

6- **Life in Christ– Relationships! (We are called to meaningful, life-transforming relationships!)**

A- John 13: 34-35. Our relationships with one another should look like the relationships Jesus had with his disciples!

B- Matt. 28: 18-20. Relationships help us obey the teachings of Jesus.

C- 1 Thess. 5: 12-13. Leadership Relationships in the Body of Christ are needed for guidance of the Body.

D- Prov. 12: 22 Relationships must be absolutely honest with one another.

E- Gal. 5:13 Good relationships serve one another.

F- James 5:16 Relationships are places of openness and honesty about our sins and shortcomings.

G- Acts 16: 13-15 Relationships work together to help others come to Christ.

H- 1 Thess. 5:11 Relationships encourage and build up each others' faith!

I- 1 Peter 4:8-10 Relationships will need hospitality and encouragement. We are a refuge for one another. Deep love covers over sins and helps us experience God's Grace.

J- 2 Cor. 6: 11-13. Good relationships require vulnerability, opening our hearts to one another (saying what you really think and feel).

7- **Life in Christ- Marriage and Dating Relationships**

A- 1 Cor. 7:39 Christians must marry other Christians.

B- 2 Cor. 6: 14-15. Christians should not be tightly bound to unbelievers— relationships can influence us away from Christ. 1 Kings 11:4—foreign women led Solomon's heart astray. Christians are wise to only date other Christians to protect their hearts spiritually.

C- 1 Thess. 4: 3-8. Christians remain sexually pure in dating relationships. Adultery is out of bounds for Christians.

Application: What are some of the things you are most looking forward to in your life in Christ. What do you think your biggest challenges will be in committing to a life in Christ?

Prayer: Father, thank you for the life in Christ you are offering me. I want to experience your forgiveness and mercy. I love what you are doing for me through Christ's life. I long to love you, serve you, give to you, give to my brothers and sisters, and tell others about the life in Christ you have for them.