

“In Christ”

“In Him/Whom”

“In the Lord”

Purpose of this Study

- There seems to be no major controversy or disagreement in the use and function of the phrases “in Christ” and “in him/whom”
- However, there is often much debate and strong disagreement among those who teach Scripture within the church concerning the phrase “in the Lord”
- In this study we wish to see how these three phrases are used within Scripture—that we might all “speak the same thing and that there be no divisions” among us (1 Cor. 1:10)

Purpose of this Study

- Understanding similar phrases within Scripture, especially those which often can be used interchangeably, will help us understand how they function
- The phrases “in Christ,” “in him/whom” and “in the Lord” are used repeatedly, especially within Paul's writings
 - Since God uses these phrases so many times, it is important for us to know what they mean and how they apply to our lives

Similar Phrases

- While some may contend that “in Christ” functions distinctly different than “in the Lord,” our study should help us see the similarities rather than focusing on possible distinctions between the phrases
- Especially in Paul's writings we should be able to see that Christ is the Lord and the Lord is Christ
 - “In Christ”=“in the Lord”=“in him/in whom”

“In Christ”

- Used to indicate spiritual location
 - Rom. 3:24; 6:11, 23; 8:1, 2, 39; 9:1; 12:5; 15:7; 16:3, 7, 9-10
 - 1 Cor. 1:2, 4, 30; 3:1; 4:10, 15, 17; 15:18-19, 31* (lit. “in Christ Jesus the Lord of us”); 16:24
 - 2 Cor. 2:14, 17; 3:14; 5:17, 19; 12:2, 19
 - Gal. 1:22; 2:4, 17; 3:14, 26, 28; 5:6
 - Eph. 1:1, 3, 10, 12, 20; 2:6-7, 10, 13; 3:6, 11, 21; 4:32

“In Christ”

- Used to indicate spiritual location
 - Phil. 1:1, 13, 26; 2:1, 5; 3:3, 14; 4:7, 19, 21
 - Col. 1:2, 4, 28
 - 1 Thess. 2:14; 4:16; 5:18
 - 1 Tim. 1:14; 3:13
 - 2 Tim. 1:1, 9, 13; 2:1, 10; 3:12, 15
 - Philem. 8, 20, 23
 - 1 Pet. 3:16; 5:10, 14

“In Him/Whom”

- Used to refer to Christ while in the flesh or to indicate spiritual location
 - Mt. 3:17; 17:5
 - Acts 4:12 (“in whom” refers back to vv. 10-11)
 - Eph. 1:4, 7, 9-11, 13; 2:15-16*, 21-22; 3:12; 4:21, 30
 - Col. 1:14; 2:3, 11-12

“In the Lord”

- Used to indicate spiritual location
 - Rom. 14:14; 16:2, 8, 11-13, 22
 - Compare Rom. 16:2-13
 - 1 Cor. 4:17*; 7:22, 39; 9:1-2; 11:11; 15:58; 16:19
 - *Contrast 1 Jn. 2:15-16
 - 2 Cor. 2:12* (notice 2:14); 10:17
 - *Evangelistic opportunities, 1 Cor. 16:9; Col. 4:3
 - Gal. 5:10
 - Eph. 1:15; 2:21 (notice 2:22); 4:1, 17; 5:8; 6:1* (variant), 10, 21

“In the Lord”

- Used to indicate spiritual location
 - Phil. 1:14; 2:19, 24, 29; 3:1; 4:1-2, 4-5, 10
 - Col. 3:18, 20; 4:7, 17
 - 1 Thess. 3:8; 4:1; 5:12
 - 2 Thess. 3:4, 12
 - Philem. 16* (Barnes: “In the Lord—As a Christian”), 20
 - Rev. 14:13

“In the Lord”

- Quotes worth considering
 - Rom. 14:14—F. F. Bruce, “. . . to be 'persuaded in the Lord Jesus' . . . expresses his conviction as a member of Christ, as he considers the life and welfare of the believing fellowship” (*Romans*, 237)
 - Rom. 16:2 (“Receive her in the Lord”)—F. F. Bruce, “That is, as a fellow-Christian; but if there is any distinction here between 'in the Lord' and 'in Christ,' the meaning of the phrase may be . . . 'as befits the saints'” (*Ibid.*, 252)

“*In the Lord*”

- Quotes worth considering
 - Rom. 16:22 (“I, Tertius. . .greet you in the Lord”)—F. F. Bruce, “. . . he was evidently a Christian, since he sends his greetings *in the Lord*” (Ibid., 265)
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—F. F. Bruce, “as befits one who is **in the Lord** (cf. verse 22) . . . It is probably also implied that . . . she should marry a fellow-Christian” (*1 & 2 Corinthians*, 77)
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*NIV*, “But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord”

“In the Lord”

- Quotes worth considering
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Amplified Bible*, “If the husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she will, only [provided that he too is] in the Lord”
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Common English Bible*, “But if her husband dies, she is free to marry whomever she wants, only it should be a believer in the Lord”
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Complete Jewish Bible*, “. . . if the husband dies she is free to marry anyone she wishes, provided he is a believer in the Lord”

“In the Lord”

- Quotes worth considering
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Contemporary English Version*, “Then she is free to marry again, but only to a man who is a follower of the Lord”
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Easy-to-Read Version*, “But if the husband dies, the woman is free to marry any man she wants, but he should belong to the Lord”
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Expanded Bible*, “But if her husband dies, she is free to marry any man she wants, but she must marry another believer”

“In the Lord”

- Quotes worth considering
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*GOD'S WORD Translation*, “If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if the man is a Christian”
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Good News Translation*, “. . . but if her husband dies, then she is free to be married to any man she wishes, but only if he is a Christian”
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Living Bible*, “. . . if her husband dies, then she may marry again, but only if she marries a Christian”

“In the Lord”

- Quotes worth considering
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*Names of God Bible*, “If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if the man is a Christian”
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*New Century Version*, “But if her husband dies, she is free to marry any man she wants, but she must marry another believer”
 - 1 Cor. 7:39—*New English Translation*, “But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes (only someone in the Lord)”

1 Cor. 9:5

- Many translations have something like this:
 - “Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?” (NKJV)
 - The word rendered “right” is the word *exousia* (“authority”)
 - The word translated “believing” is *adelphē* (“sister”)
 - What is the meaning of “a sister, a wife”?
 - A sister in Christ as wife
 - A believing wife; one who is “in the Lord”

Memory Verse Review ***(Galatians—1 Thessalonians)***

- Gal. 2:21—“I do not...”
- Eph. 4:4-6—“There is...”
- Phil. 1:27—“Only let...”
- Col. 1:18a—“He is...”
- 1 Thess. 1:8—“For from you...”