

“In Christ”

“In Him/Whom”

“In the Lord”

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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; 15:17; 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, [2:16, “into”], 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. 1:8, 20, 23
 - 1 Pet. 3:16; 5:10, 14

“In Christ”

- Note on 1 Pet. 5:10, 12 and 2 Pet. 3:17-18
 - Looking at the 2nd word in the list of the 4 future active indicative verbs: “will_____”
 - Various translations:
 - “will confirm”
 - “will make you strong”
 - “will support”
 - “will establish”
 - The God of all grace/favor will establish you/
firmly fix you/make you stand

“In Christ”

- Note on 1 Pet. 5:10, 12 and 2 Pet. 3:17-18

◀ **4741. stérizó** ▶

Strong's Concordance

stérizó: to make fast, establish

Original Word: στηρίζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: stérizó

Phonetic Spelling: (stay-rid'-zo)

Short Definition: I fix firmly, strengthen

Definition: (a) I fix firmly, direct myself towards, (b) generally met: I buttress, prop, support; I strengthen, establish.

HELPS Word-studies

4741 *stērízō* (from *stēringks*, "a support that fixes, plants down"; akin to **2476** /*hístēmi*, "to stand," having a duplication of the primitive Gk root/*sta*, "to make stand") – properly, set fast (fix); give *support to secure* (firmly establish); solidly plant (which eliminates vacillation).

Englishman's Cor

Strong's Greek 4741

13 Occurrences

έστηριγμένους — 1 Occ.

έστήρικται — 1 Occ.

έστήρισεν — 1 Occ.

στηριχθῆναι — 1 Occ.

στήρισον — 2 Occ.

στηρίξαι — 4 Occ.

στηρίξατε — 1 Occ.

στηρίξει — 2 Occ.

Luke 9:51 V-A1A-3S

GRK: τὸ πρόσωπον ἐπορεύεσθαι

“In Christ”

- Note on 1 Pet. 5:10, 12 and 2 Pet. 3:17-18

◀ 2476. histémi ▶

Strong's Concordance

histémi: to make to stand, to stand

Original Word: ἵστημι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: histémi

Phonetic Spelling: (his'-tay-mee)

Short Definition: I cause to stand, stand

Definition: trans: (a) I make to stand, place, set up, establish, appoint; mid: I place myself, stand, (b) I set in balance, weigh; intrans: (c) I stand, stand by, stand still; met: I stand ready, stand firm, am steadfast.

Englishman's C

Strong's Greek 2476
153 Occurrences

εἰστήκει — 7 Occ.

εἰστήκεισαν — 7 Occ.

ἑστάναι — 3 Occ.

ἑστάθη — 4 Occ.

ἑστάθησαν — 1 Occ.

ἕστη — 9 Occ.

“In Christ”

- Note on 1 Pet. 5:10, 12 and 2 Pet. 3:17-18
 - The God of all grace/favor will make you stand (1 Pet. 5:10)
 - This is the true grace of God into (eis) which you stand (1 Pet. 5:12)
 - As we will see in 2 Pet. 3:17-18: **If** we are to keep our “stand” in Christ, **then** we have to keep standing in the grace into which God has fixed/stood us (1 Kings 18:21; Is. 7:9—“If you do not stand in your faith, you will not stand”)

“In Christ”

- Note on 1 Pet. 5:10, 12 and 2 Pet. 3:17-18

◀ 4740. stérigmos ▶

Strong's Concordance

stérigmos: a setting firmly, steadfastness

Original Word: στηριγμός, οὔ, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: stérigmos

Phonetic Spelling: (stay-rig-mos')

Short Definition: firmness, steadfastness

Definition: firmness, steadfastness.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 4740 *stérigmós* – *stability* (firmly set, fixed, established). See 4741 (*stērizō*).

Englishman's Concordance

Strong's Greek 4740

1 Occurrence

στηριγμοῦ — 1 Occ.

2 Peter 3:17 N-GMS

GRK: τοῦ ἰδίου **στηριγμοῦ**

NAS: and fall from your own *steadfastness*,

KJV: fall from your own *steadfastness*.

INT: the own *steadfastness*

1 Occurrence

“In Christ”

- Note on 1 Pet. 5:10, 12 and 2 Pet. 3:17-18
 - The God of all **grace**/favor will confirm you/firmly fix you/make you **stand** (1 Pet. 5:10)
 - This is the true **grace** of God into (*eis*) which you **stand** (1 Pet. 5:12)
 - Take heed/beware lest you fall **out of** (*ἐκπέσητε*, *ekpesēte* [*ek* prefix]) your own **standing**/firm footing (2 Pet. 3:17)
 - But grow **in** (*ἐν*; *en*) **grace** . . . (2 Pet. 3:18)

“In Him/Whom” (ἐν ᾧ, *en ho*)

- Used to refer to Christ while in the flesh or to indicate spiritual location
 - Mt. 3:17; 17:5
 - Acts 4:12 (ἐν ᾧ, “in whom/by which” encompasses vv. 10-12→Mt. 28:19→Gal. 3:27; perhaps no hard distinction to the Greek mind concerning ἐν ᾧ, “in whom/by which”)
“There is salvation in no one else! For there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by whom we must be saved!” (*Complete Jewish Bible*)

“In Him/Whom” (ἐν ᾧ, *en ho*)

“Jesus is the only One who can save people [L Salvation is found/present in no one else]. ·No one else [L No other name given to people] ·in the world [L under heaven] is able to save us”

(Expanded Bible)

“No one else can save us. Indeed, we can be saved only by the power of the one named Yeshua and not by any other person” *(Names of God Bible)*

“Jesus is the only One who can save people. No one else in the world is able to save us” *(New Century Version)*

“In Him/Whom” (ἐν ᾧ, *en ho*)

“There is no one else who can rescue us, and there is no other name under heaven given to any human by whom we may be rescued” (*The Voice*)

“No one else can save us. Of all the people in the world, God chose him to save us. It is by him we must be saved” (*Worldwide English*)

“In Him/Whom”

- Used to refer to Christ while in the flesh or to indicate spiritual location
 - 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
 - Cf. “in Christ”/“in the Lord” (Rom. 16:2-13; Philem. 1:20)
 - 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 “in the Lord”—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 (“in the Lord” modifies “obey”), 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. 1:16* (Barnes: “In the Lord—As a Christian”), 1:20
 - 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”