



Galatians
2:20

AN "I" FOR AN "I"

WITHCHRIST.ORG | Miles J. Stanford

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Opportunity -- The Purpose of this Paper is to briefly explain the believer's identification with and position in, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Life (Colossians 3:3).

You may wonder why so few Christians know of their position in Christ. This material may provide an opportunity for you to do something about it, i.e., pray, and share.

Galatians 2:20 -- In order to help rectify this debilitating lack in the Body, we share some thoughts based upon Paul's celestial and comprehensive statement, **Galatians 2:20**. In this awe-inspiring portion of the Word, the Apostle refers to himself, and every believer, eight times. These components must be properly delineated if there is to be scriptural understanding of, and practical benefit from, this heart of identification and position truth.

This morning my bride was reading some devotional writing by a well known and highly talented contemporary writer. One sentence struck me as somewhat deficient: "God always completes what He begins. That includes you. He started working on you years ago, long before you became a Christian." It would have been helpful had the author begun a bit further back. Way back! All the way back! Such as:

Anterior To All -- Once upon eternity there was but infinite non-existence-- no atom, no universe, no world: nothing, nothing, nothing...but GOD. The Eternal Trinity of Love: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. "For thus saith the high and lofty One who inhabiteth Eternity, whose name is Holy" (Isaiah. 57:15). [Contrary to fickle scientific theories, the time, space, and the universe are not eternal.]

Let your heart, dear friend, be drawn back There, and contemplate the Beloved Son eternally in the bosom of the loving Father, receiving and reciprocating that Divine Love in all of its unutterable purity and ardor, in the Spirit of Love.

Back there in Eternity

Before anything had been brought into being

Environed in the pure essence of Divine Life, Light, and Love

In the mind of the Father, heart of the Son, and hands of the Spirit

By and for His love, God conceived YOU!

Thought of in Eternity past

Brought forth in time

For Eternity future

Forever Loved.

"In the secret place of the Most High"; "in the bosom of the Father" (Psalms 91–1; John 1:18), before anything was created --the Father fashioned YOU in His heart of love. "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unformed; and in Thy Book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalms 139:16).

When the Giver of the Gift thinks and speaks, even in Eternity past, it is done! While He may not choose to carry it out immediately, it is forever completed. "For He spoke, and it was done." "That which hath been is now, and that which is to be hath already been" (Psalms 33:9; Ecclesiastes 3:15).

The perceptive Elizabeth Barrett Browning said it in verse:

Ere suns and moons could wax and wane,
Ere stars were thunder girt, or piled
The heavens, God thought on me His child,
Ordained a life for me, arranged
Its circumstances every one
To the minutest; aye, God said,
This head this hand shouldest rest upon
Thus, ere He fashioned star or sun.

Eternal Surety -- Here is your eternal security and assurance; your source of rest and confidence in your sovereign Father. What He has decreed concerning YOU in eternity past, He is carrying out here in the present and on into eternity future. All is based upon scriptural truth; nothing is predicated upon chance, or speculation.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His [eternal] purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate [mark out, determine

beforehand] to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

"Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called; and whom He called, them He also justified; and whom He justified, them He also glorified. What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely [grace] give us all things?" (Romans 8:28-32).

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer clearly stated:

In the areas stated above, the Holy Spirit, the divine Author, asserts that precisely what God purposes in eternity He brings to glorious fruition. By specific steps and by wholly adequate means He realizes all that He purposes.

Whom He predestinates, He calls. Whom He calls, He justifies; and whom He justifies, He glorifies. These are among the things which "work together for good" to those who are called according to His purpose.

Divine election is absolute. If this seems to be taking things out of the hands of man and committing them into the hands of God, it will at least be conceded that, when thus committed to God, things are in better hands and this, after all, is God's own universe in which He has sovereign right to do after the dictates of His own blessed will (*Systematic Theology* III, p.350).

Rest -- Is it not a great comfort and surety, among the exigencies of everyday life, to realize that your sovereign Father is governing all according to His eternal will for YOU?

"Who hath saved us, and called [same as elected] us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (2 Timothy 1:9).

"Knowing, brethren beloved, your election [same as called, chosen] of God" (I Thessalonians 1:4).

"According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of he world" (Ephesians 1:4).

"God hath from the beginning *chosen* you to salvation" (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

"That He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He hath before prepared unto glory, even us, whom He hath called" (Romans 9:23, 24) .

Position Is Preeminent -- Here is the eternal truth concerning YOU--an elect, chosen, and called individual. This is your family position in Christ. which is inexorably settled forever "it is written"; established in eternity past in the heart and purpose of your Father. Regardless of your condition, or your experience, this is the truth upon which you are to rest and rely.

"In whom [Christ] also we have obtained [not attained] an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Ephesians 1:11).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:4).

These are the eternal, positional, truths upon which your faith is to be founded. Think Position!

"We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen [spiritual, eternal]; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Adam The First -- According to His eternal plan and schedule, God called [spoke, fiat creation] the world into being. And He created Adam to be head, source, of the human race for that world. With the rest of humanity, you were created in Adam--he became your life, as yet unborn (positional).

Had you somehow been aware of that, your reaction may have been something like this:

Hey! Wait just a minute, here! On the authority of God's personal Word, I am a unique and eternal person, elect, called and chosen in the Last Adam, from before the foundation of the world, the first Adam, or anything else!

He has chosen me "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:4), the uncreated, Eternal Son of God, and predestinated me to be conformed to His image. He has positionally justified, sanctified, and glorified me (Romans 8:28–32).

But here I am, at the very outset, positioned in a life-and-death relationship with the wrong, the first, the created, the sinful, earthly Adam!

Position Vs. Experience -- But did I not tell you to "think position"? Here is the *principle of position*, to be learned and adhered to, right now! Your personal faith is to be centered upon what God has said to you, and about you, in His eternal Word. Your faith is not to be governed by your experience, or situation and condition, what you think He is doing, or not doing.

Condemned -- But hold; you ain't seen nuthin' yet! Adam sinned against God, and was therefore condemned to death--dead to God. Hence, Adam being your head and life, the same goes for you!

"Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned [in Adam]" (Romans 5:12).

"Therefore, as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation" "For as in Adam all die" (Romans 5:18; 1 Corinthians 15:22).

Enemy Of God -- You think this is the ultimate catastrophe, that it can't get any worse than this? Oh? The time came when you were born into this world in the life and image of the first, the fallen Adam. You grew up in the Adamic family, a lost and condemned sinner, without hope and without God in the world.

"Dead in trespasses and sins"; "without Christ...having no hope, and without God in the [condemned] world"; "condemned already" (Ephesians 2:1,12; John 3:18).

As if that weren't enough, you were, by your very Adamic life and nature, at enmity against God!

"The carnal [Adamic] mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be. So, then, they that are in the [Adamic] flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7, 8).

Now that it is obvious that there is nothing you can do to undo all this, let's see how God brings about His original purpose as to your ultimate perfection in Christ.

According to His own particular schedule for you — the elect, chosen, called, and totally unique one-of-a-kind person — God drew you to the Saviour.

"No man can come to Me, except the Father draw him no man can come unto Me, except it were given unto him of My Father" (John 6:44, 65).

Saved! -- The Spirit of God convicted you of your sinful and lost condition, and as a result you carried out your responsibility to believe, and placed your trust in the Saviour. By your hearing and believing, you were regenerated, born again. [This "hearing and believing" is the means, not the cause.]

"Being born again [regenerated, enlified] ... by the Word of God"; "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"; "As many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His name"; "Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth" (I Peter 1:23; John 3:3; 1:12; James 1:18).

Covenant Error -- There is a realm to be avoided, which teaches just the opposite of this, i.e., Reformed-Calvinist-Covenant theology. This movement insists that unsaved man is so entirely dead that he cannot believe, and that God must first regenerate him before he can exercise the gift of faith which is given him, to be saved. He must be born again in order to be born again!

As the late Dr. John Murray, highly esteemed Covenant theologian, wrote:

It should be especially noted that even faith that Jesus is the Christ is the effect of regeneration. We are not born again by faith or repentance or conversion; we believe because we have been regenerated" (*Redemption Accomplished & Applied*, p. 103).

Dr. John F. MacArthur's Covenant trek has brought him to the same:

The unsaved are dead; incapable of any spiritual activity. Until God quickens [regenerates] us, we have no capacity to respond to Him in faith. Believing is therefore the first act of an awakened spiritual corpse; it is the new man drawing his first breath" (*Faith Works*, pp. 67,69).

Covenantists fail to understand that death means separation, not extinction. Separated from God, dead to God, yet man is alive enough to reject the Saviour. Consequently, he is alive enough to accept Him.

Also see [**SOVEREIGNTY PLUS RESPONSIBILITY**](#)

Irresponsibility -- This initial Covenant error removes the sinner's responsibility to exercise his faith in order to be regenerated, born again. Dr. Chafer and Dr. Dick set forth the sovereignty of God, and the responsibility of man, as to salvation:

Having designed that man shall be possessed of an independent will, no step can be taken in the accomplishment of God's sovereign purpose which will even tend to coerce the human volition. God does awaken the mind of man to spiritual sanity and bring before him the desirability of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

If, by His power, God creates new visions of the reality of sin and the blessedness of Christ as Saviour, and under this enlightenment men choose to be saved, their will is not coerced nor are they deprived of the action of any part of their beings" (*Systematic Theology* 111:284).

When God by His Spirit inclines a called one to the Saviour, that one, in so doing, acts only in the consciousness of his own responsibility and choice. It is obvious that to present a convincing argument to a person

which leads that one to make a decision, does not partake of the nature of a coercion of the will.

In such a case, every function of the will is preserved and, in relation to the Gospel, it remains true that "whosoever will may come"; yet back of this truth is the deeper revelation that no fallen man will accept Christ until enlightened, convicted [not regenerated] by the Holy Spirit" (*Lectures on Theology*, p. 186).

Charismatic Error -- There is yet another realm of error to be shunned, i.e., Arminian-Charismatic. Here God supposedly provides man with "general grace" to believe, hence all hinges upon his choice.

It is maintained that God in His foreknowledge sees whether or not one will choose salvation, and/or reject the Saviour. If he decides to be saved, God elects, chooses, and calls him on that basis. In other words, man is sovereign, not God. Hence all is man-centered: Jesus, make me happy, make me wealthy, make me healthy...me, me, me! "Not Christ, but I."

The sinner's choice of God, and not God's choice of the sinner, is the ultimate factor in Arminian soteriology [salvation]. Those elected by God are chosen only in the sense that He foresees their faith and good works--which arise from themselves.

The human will is exalted to the place of sovereignty and, according to this system, man becomes his own saviour. As Dr. A.H. Strong wrote, "It is important to understand that, in Arminian usage, grace is simply restoration of man's natural ability to act for himself; he is never actually saved by grace, but it only enables him to save himself ... if he will."

However, the hard and fast principle is that nothing can be foreknown that has not been foreordained.

Romans Seven -- Fear or faint not; we will yet arrive at Galatians 2:20! After a period of time in your new Christian life your first love and zeal for the Lord began to wane, and your life and service became more and more of a chore, and struggle. You had entered Romans Seven, the realm of defeat in bondage to the law of God--which is "holy, and just, and good" (Romans 7:12).

"For that which I do I understand not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do"
(Romans 7:15, 19).

More Covenant Error -- Within this realm, Reformed-Covenant theology is again in error regarding the "law". They say that one is saved by grace, but that one must live the Christian life by the law--"the law as the rule of life." [The truth of the matter is that all non-dispensational Christians, whether Arminian, Reformed or other, establish the law as the believer's "rule of life".]

Hear a leading contemporary Covenant contender, Dr. James I. Packer:

In its application to believers, the word "holy" implies devotion and assimilation: devotion, in the sense of living a life of service to God; assimilation, in the sense of imitating, conforming to, and becoming like the God one serves. For the Christian, this means taking God's moral law as the rule of life.

The only way to show respect for God's real purity is by realistically setting oneself against sin. That means not only a wholehearted purpose of pleasing God by consecrated zeal--keeping the law; it also means repentance. It is a matter of Spirit-led law-keeping" (*Rediscovering, Holiness*, p. 19,146).

In that the member of the Body of Christ has died to the law (Gal. 2.19), the Spirit of Christ will never lead the believer to law-keeping, to have the law as his rule of life. Never!

The Goal -- Keep in mind that we are but sketching the truths involved, in order to provide an outline picture of your position in, and identification with, the glorified Lord Jesus Christ. Further and more comprehensive treatment is provided in [*The Green Letters*](#); and when you are ready, more thoroughly still in [*The Complete Green Letters*](#). In light of this, we will now enter the blessed realm of Galatians 2.20.

**"I¹ AM [HAVE BEEN] CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST;
NEVERTHELESS I² LIVE; YET NOT I³, BUT CHRIST
LIVETH IN ME⁴; AND THE LIFE WHICH I⁵ NOW LIVE IN**

THE FLESH I⁶ LIVE BY THE FAITH OF [IN] THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME⁷ AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME⁸."

The superscript numbers, shown next to "I" or "me" above, refer to the corresponding numbered explanations provided below in sections below.

1) "I Am [have been] Crucified With Christ" -- It is extremely important that you get this first "I" correctly identified and correlated. It is, for one thing, you, as a Christian. It is you, whom God conceived in His heart, and chose "in Christ" before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4).

Same, but Different -- You are the identical being, entity, of the Father's personal choice and making, and that will never change throughout eternity--a forever-person! When God positioned you in union with Adam, and when Adam fell, you--being Adamic--were born into this world a *dead-unto-God* and *alive-unto-sin*, lost soul. The same original person, but your life and nature were Adamic.

Back On Track -- Then you were saved you became Adamic in another sense: Christ, the Last Adam, became your life and nature. So here you are, finally, "in Christ," the chosen one conceived in eternity. Right back where you started from!

Just how did God get you from the condemned Adam, to the "accepted in the Beloved" Adam (Ephesians 1.6)? Understandably, you might reply, "Well, Jesus saved me by paying for all my sins in His own Blood on the Cross; Jesus paid it all."

INFINITELY MORE! -- But, dear friend, if you are going to halt there, and settle for that (as most of the Church has), you might just as well eradicate Galatians 2:20 from the Book--not to mention Romans 6--8!

It is blessedly true that the Saviour died on the Cross to pay the death-penalty, and forgive all your sins--past, present, and future. But what about you--the Adamic *source* of all those sins? If God had forgiven you while in Adam, you would have been nothing more than a forgiven

sinner. And neither God nor heaven can accept a sinner, whether forgiven, or otherwise.

Condemnation -- You as an Adamic sinner were not forgiven; that would simply mean starting all over as a first-Adam person. "As in Adam all die" (1 Corinthians 15:22). Instead of forgiving sin, "God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful [Adamic] flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:3).

Identification -- The means by which God accomplished this "transfer" from Adam to Adam, was to make His Son, while on the Cross (not before), to be made your sin. "For He hath made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21). God identified your sin, and you, the sinner, with His Son who was made to be sin on Calvary. Under the condemnation and judgment of SIN, not sins, Christ was crucified and died. And you likewise, as identified with Him: "Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to have died indeed unto sin..." (Romans 6:11a).

As has been well stated:

Our sins were dealt with by the Blood, we ourselves were dealt with by the Cross. The Blood procures our pardon, the Cross procures our deliverance from what we were in Adam. The Blood can wash away my sins, but it cannot wash away sin, my old Adamic man; I need the Cross to crucify me--the sinner.

From Old To New -- Thus we have our first "I," you, crucified with Christ. And when you were taken down into that death unto sin, you were thereby separated from Adam.

Once separated, freed from your relationship of death to the first Adam and his sin, God re-created you in Christ, the Last Adam, "that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old [Adamic] things are passed away [positionally]; behold, all things are become [positionally] new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Actually, you are a trinity: the eternal you, the first Adam you, and the Last Adam you. Initially, the eternal, elect, chosen one; then, identified with the first and fallen Adam; and finally, in union with the Last Adam--while remaining one and the same eternal person.

Sacrificial Life Out Of Death -- As a Christian, with Christ as your Life, you constitute a crucified individual. As such you are positionally dead to sin and your sinful Adamic life (Romans 6:11); dead to the world (Gal. 6:14); and dead to the law (Gal. 2:19).

The nature of your new life is that of your sacrificial Lord. "For we who live [in Christ) are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you [others]" (2 Corinthians 4:11, 12). Life out of death--the way up is down.

The Living Dead -- Do you remember how Adam died positionally? God said to him, "But the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17).

And the very day that Adam sinned he died spiritually, judicially, positionally. He became dead to God and alive to sin, but he lived on for seven centuries (!) before he died physically. By this one man "sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men" (Romans 5:12).

The same positional principle applied to you as an Adamic individual. That old life was judged, condemned, and crucified with Christ on the Cross. However, God allows that old life and nature to live on in you as a born-again believer--and it will continue to do so until your death (not quite 700 years), or the Rapture, whichever comes first.

Norman Douty explains the facts in this matter:

The NT teaches that the old Adamic man is positionally dead in virtue of the Cross of Christ, but it nowhere says it will become experientially dead by faith in that fact. What it does say is, that when counting on that fact the indwelling Adamic life will lose its governing power over me.

In Romans 6 we find that through the death of Christ unto sin, sin shall not have dominion over you--the thought is one of bondage, ruling, governing, dominating, reigning. There is no such view presented in the Word as the eradication of its presence, but the loss of its governing ability, by faith.

In the death of the Cross the old man was crucified (Romans 6:6). It is not annihilated, but it has lost its throne. We will feel it there, but we are to reign in life--His Life. It is a greater testimony to the grace and power of the Father to let that old life be in us and give us dominion over it, than to remove it to begin with.

We want to get clear that the Father does not mean to improve that old life on the one hand, nor eradicate it on the other. The fact that it does not improve is not a sign that we are not growing in the new life. And the fact that it is still within does not mean that we are not growing in Christ, who is our Christian Life.

More Irresponsibility -- Error breeds corruption, in that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump (Gal. 5:9). Reformed-Covenant error "A" spawns their error "B". Their first error is that man is so dead that he cannot believe in order to be saved, unless he is first regenerated and given the gift of faith. This eliminates responsibility to believe the Word of God and accept the Saviour for salvation. But the Lord Jesus said, "He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life" (John 5:24).

Eradication -- The second error (B) is an eradication which eliminates the believer's responsibility for the sinful activity of the indwelling old Adamic man. Romans 6:6 states that the old man was crucified--a positional fact, completed at Calvary. But Covenantism disregards positional truth and considers this verse to be experiential.

For them, therefore, the old man having been crucified, is dead and gone--extinct. But, death is not extinction [annihilation].

In Romans 6:6 it says, "knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him." In other words, the old man is dead, destroyed, removed ... it isn't around. You don't have an old man any more. The moment we believed in Christ, by a miracle our old man died." --John F. MacArthur (Tape G.C. 2147)

Your old self and your old man are gone forever. He is dead, buried, gone forever." --Neil Anderson (*Victory Over the Darkness*, p. 77).

With the old man extinct, sin in the life of the believer is designated as "old habits," "residual sin," "old grave clothes," etc. Some

eradicationists put the blame on Satan. It is not, "Satan made me do it," but "Satan did it"!

Satan accomplishes his goal through your thought life, masquerading as the now defunct 'old man.' It will seem as if the old man were alive and well. But if he is, God's Word is not true. The Evil One's strategy is to disguise himself in your thought life as your old man.

Listen to me: there is no such thing as "positional truth." The Bible speaks only of truth and deception. The term positional truth is simply Satan's deception. --Bill Gillham (*Lifetime Guarantee*, pp. 81,92).

Doctrinal Delinquency -- When it comes to doctrine, the intellectually-inclined Covenantists operate on an embarrassingly low level of intelligence. They do not realize that death never means extinction, but that it ever means separation! Physical death is the separation of the immaterial part of man from his material body. It does not mean that the person has become non-existent.

Ongoing Adam -- The Adamic old man is in the same position as its original source. God pronounced and considered the first Adam spiritually, positionally, dead on the very day that he sinned. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). In that position of being dead to God and alive to sin, Adam lived on for centuries, producing an entire race of dead-to-God people, before he died physically, experientially.

The same positional principle applies to your life. You are related to Adam in your Adamic self-life, and were positionally crucified when identified with Christ in His death, not for sin, but unto sin.

As a Christian, God has chosen to have that old condemned and crucified life live on in your mortal body. While you are not responsible for its presence, you are responsible for its ever sinful activity in your daily life.

"Thou Art, The Man"! -- It is essential to carefully identify this fleshly old man within. He is not just "the old grave clothes" (MacArthur), nor "energy force," nor "residual sin" (Solomon, Stanley, Kroll), nor Satan and his demons (Anderson, George, Gillham, Needham). Not at all! The old man is YOU--none other! It is your unconverted life; the fleshly, seething, ever-present source of sin in your Christian life.

Paul said, "For I know that in me (that is, in my [Adamic] flesh) dwelleth no good thing" (Romans 7:18). Even if you were saved at the tender age of four, that pre-conversion old (young) Adamic life has all the potential of Galatians 5:19–21!

The Adams -- There are but two sources of life--the first Adam of sin, and the Last Adam of holiness. As a Christian, you have each of those lives and natures [propensities] in residence. At the same time, you are no longer in union, in relationship, with your old Adamic life--your death with Christ having resulted in positional separation.

Faith In The Facts -- Your death on Calvary's Cross broke the power of the old man, broke the power of sin as personified by your Adamic life. But the Christian life is one of faith, and the power of sin and self yields only to the exercise of faith [not law!--"for the power of sin is the law"--1 Corinthians 15:56] in compliance with the Word of God and reliance upon the Spirit of God.

The Word says to reckon yourself as a new creation in Christ, having died to sin. It is a matter of relying upon the finished work of the Cross to free you from the defeating power of sin and Adamic self (Romans 6:11).

It is the Holy Spirit who responds to that faith, by applying the death of the Cross to the source of indwelling sin. As Paul stated, "This I say then, Walk in [reliance upon] the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the [Adamic] flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

Although your old Adamic life remains within you, you are no longer in the fleshly Adam. "Ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit" (Romans 8:9). At the same time, the Spirit of Christ maintains the life of the Last Adam within you.

As you exercise faith to be free from the sinful activity of the indwelling first Adam, you are free to center upon the glorified Lord Jesus Christ in heaven--the Source of your Christian life (Colossians 3:3).

Think Position! -- You are to count upon your union with Christ above--reckoning yourself to be alive unto God in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:11b). That is now your position in Christ--far more real than your condition, your experience. Therefore Paul says,

"(God) hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6).

"If ye, then, be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above [in Christ], not on things on the earth. For ye died [positionally crucified], and your [new creation] life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1–3).

As you rest in your position in, and your identification with, Christ where He is, looking upon Him in faith and fellowship (2 Corinthians 3:18), the Spirit gradually manifests Christ's life in you, i.e., "the fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22, 23).

2) "Nevertheless I Live." -- Now free from Adam the first, God recreated you in Christ, the Last Adam, and that is the life you now live as a Christian--the new Adamic "I".

3) "Yet Not I" -- The old "I", you as you were in Adam, is no longer your life--Christ is now the Source of your Christian life--"For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). The old "I" lives in you, but you as a new creation in Christ are no longer related to it.

4) "But Christ Liveth In Me." -- You, the new-creation "me," are indwelt by Christ. It is not Christ living instead of you ([mysticism](#) not allowed), but rather He is the Source of your new life as a recreated person--the eternal, chosen and elect entity. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

5) "And The Life Which I Now Live In The Flesh." -- It is the new you living the Christian life in your body of flesh.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God."

"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God" (Romans 12:1; 6:13).

6) "I Live By The Faith Of [in] The Son Of God." -- You do not live by Christ's faith. Neither do you live your Christian life by faith in the Saviour for the new birth. By that faith you enter the Christian life. But the Christian life is lived and developed by faith in the Son of God as your Life--of spiritual growth. That faith results in the Spirit's manifesting the life of Christ in and through you.

7) "Who Loved Me" -- The "me" that Christ loves is the you whom the Father elected, chose, and called, back in eternity. He continued to love you, even when you were at enmity toward Him, dead in trespasses and sins as related to the first Adam.

8) "And Gave Himself For Me." -- You are the chosen eternal "me"--for whom He gave Himself, in order to redeem you from Adamic death and have you for Himself both now and throughout all Eternity.

"That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7).

To God Be The Glory -- The divine perspective must ever be held to. Although the Lord Jesus Christ loved you and gave Himself on the Cross for you, He accomplished that work for the glory of God. He went to the Cross primarily to vindicate His Father's honor, justice, and to glorify Him.

"Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of Me) to do Thy will, O God." "I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do" (Hebrews 10:7; John 17:4).

And He will continue to glorify the Father through us, as we center upon Him as our Life.

"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth, that God in all

things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (I Peter 4:11).

"Not I, But Christ!"

May we ever maintain, the divine perspective, for His glory:

If the need of man were the sole measure of the grace of God, then man only would be thought of, the work of the Lord Jesus would be simply for man, and the power of God expended merely in rescuing man and securing his relief. Man would be the object and end of it all and not the Father. --J.B. Stoney

When I rest in the Lord Jesus, then I begin to find all my joy and strength in Him, and I occupy myself with Him. This is the first step, or foundation, to true devotedness.

I do not become devoted in the true sense until I have found my rest in Him. I am, up to this, rather looking to receive from Him. I am more of an object to myself; but when I find how fully I am an object to Him, then my heart is at liberty to make Him its Object, He having made me His. --J.B.S.

The Father has given us His Beloved Son to be the joy of our souls, the Object of our hearts, telling us that we shall soon see Him and be with Him and like Him forever. He is saying, "Behold My Servant, whom I uphold; Mine Elect, in whom My soul delighteth!" (Isaiah 42:1).

The Father would have us find our joy where He is finding His, and that is in that Beloved One at His own right hand. He is saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice."

May we know the rest and blessedness of this joy at all times; so shall we glorify Him as we pass through this world of darkness. Happy ourselves, we shall help others to be happy. -- J.H. Taylor

Position Or Paucity -- As you advance in your Christian life, you are going to realize that there is someone very familiar keeping pace with you. And that is none other than your old Adamic life.

You are going to find that your only escape from its sinful power and tyranny is your position; your position in and identification with Christ in His crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and ascension. It must be the rest of faith in the facts, i.e., counting upon your death to sinful self, and your being alive in Christ above (Romans 6:11). Otherwise you are going to flounder, if not founder.

All depends upon this-- the simplicity with which my soul receives the truth that, all that I was in Adam was judged and crucified on the Cross. Now there is a new man before the Father, and a new Man before me-- Christ risen from the dead and ascended to Glory.

Now I am entitled to say, that there is the One in whom I am seated before the Throne of God. We are now by grace in Another, even the risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ, in order to give us our family position in the very presence of the Father. -- Wm Kelly

Who — Where — What -- You are going to have to know, and rely solely upon, your position in Christ. That is **WHO** you are (a new creation in union with Christ as your Life) (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:4); **WHERE** you are (raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, your new-creation life hidden with Christ in God) (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 3:3); and **WHAT** you are ("thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" - indeed, a joint-heir with Christ") (Galatians 4:7; Romans 8:17).

As H.J. Hewlett put it:

"We see the Lord Jesus Christ ... crowned with glory and honor" (Hebrews 2:9). This is all our need. "The Lord Jesus Christ is all that we need for all that we are." Let us rejoice in the vision and fellowship glorious, and with pilgrim steps down here rest in the Captain of our Salvation up There.

"For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

No future but glory, Lord Jesus, have we,
For man is in glory, already with Thee;

The brighter the glory that shines from Thy face,
The clearer our title to glory through grace.

And Hamilton Smith adds encouragement:

The more we realize and rest in our position before the Father within the veil, the better we shall be able to face the path with its dangers through the wilderness down here. Thus the exhortation, "Let us draw nigh," followed by "Let us hold fast the profession of our hope" (Hebrews 10:22, 23)."

Hence your blessed hope, your daily desire and expectation will be that expressed so eloquently by Gerhardt ter Steegen, some three centuries ago:

‘Midst the darkness, storm, and sorrow
One bright gleam I see;
Well I know the blessed morrow
Christ will come for me.
‘Midst the light, and peace, and glory
Of the Father’s Home,
Christ for me is waiting, watching,
Waiting till I come.

O the blessed joy of meeting,
All the desert past,
O the wondrous words of greeting
He shall speak at last!
He and I, together, entering
Those bright courts above;
He and I, together sharing
All the Father's Love

He, who in the hour of sorrow
Bore the curse alone;
I, who through the lonely desert
Trod where He had gone.
He and I, in that bright glory,
One deep joy shall share;
Mine to be forever with Him,
His, to have me There!"

Mr. Stoney, once again, in closing:

We are not according to our Father's pleasure, nor are we in simple restfulness as to our acceptance, if we do not enter by faith into the new position to which He in His grace has placed us.

A further fact is, that we have no place but that; and when we get even a glimpse of it, it alters immensely this place; this world through which we are but passing, and all things in it, appear in another color [desaturated] altogether.

Can anything affect the heart so much as the way the believer is received in his new position? What I press now is the right that we have to be in that place, and it is not only that I delight to be There, but the ineffable thought is that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ delights to have me there in His place, sharing His joys in Christ."

Web Links Mentioned in this Paper:

- [**SOVEREIGNTY PLUS RESPONSIBILITY**](http://withchrist.org/sovereignty.htm)
 - [*http://withchrist.org/sovereignty.htm*](http://withchrist.org/sovereignty.htm)

- [**The Green Letters**](http://withchrist.org/MJS/green.htm)
 - [*http://withchrist.org/MJS/green.htm*](http://withchrist.org/MJS/green.htm)

- [**The Complete Green Letters**](http://withchrist.org/MJS/complete.htm)
 - [*http://withchrist.org/MJS/complete.htm*](http://withchrist.org/MJS/complete.htm)

- [**Mysticism**](http://withchrist.org/mysticism.htm)
 - [*http://withchrist.org/mysticism.htm*](http://withchrist.org/mysticism.htm)

Classical Pauline Dispensationalism, "CPD" (a biblical framework for interpreting Scripture) is built upon the recovery of biblical truth which began with Martin Luther (1483 – 1546) and the Protestant Reformation (first stage), followed by John N. Darby (1800 – 1882) and the early Plymouth Brethren (second stage).

More blessed information on Spiritual Growth Truths and Classic Pauline Dispensationalism can be found at [*www.withChrist.org*](http://www.withChrist.org).
