

EPHESIANS

# In Christ

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

# Ephesians 1:3

## EPHESIANS

ἐν Χριστῷ  
“in Christ”

This term or “in Christ Jesus” is used  
in Paul’s epistles 169 times.

This term is not found prior to Paul  
and is rarely used outside of his  
writings.

Today's Essential Question: EPHESIANS

What Does It  
Mean To Be “In  
Christ?”

# 5 Qualities of Being “In Christ”

1. Total Transformation
2. New Life
3. Radical Reorientation
4. Supernatural Unity
5. Deep Satisfaction

# 1. Total Transformation EPHESIANS

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 –

“Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

# In the Greek

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- There are no verbs in that verse; it is quite literally, “If anyone in Christ – new creation!”
- **The one who is in Christ is radically, fundamentally new.**
- And not only that, but “new things have come,” which is in the perfect tense, stresses that these new things will continue to remain.



## Acts 8:1-3

## EPHESIANS

**1** Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. **2** Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. **3** But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

## Galatians 1:13-14

## EPHESIANS

**13** For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; **14** and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.



1 Corinthians 15:9

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“For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”



## 2. New Life

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- 1 Corinthians 15:22 –

“For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ** all will be made alive.”

Being in Christ is nothing less than being made alive.

# Why is this Necessary? EPHESIANS

- Ephesians 2:1 – “And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins”
- Colossians 2:13 – “When you were **dead** in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions”

## Galatians 2:20

## EPHESIANS

**20** I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**John A. Mackay said:**    EPHESIANS

“He becomes the soil in which they grow, the atmosphere in which they breathe, the source and goal of their entire existence as men.”

## 3. Radical Reorientation

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- **Philippians 3:9** –

“and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith **in Christ**, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith”



# REPENTANCE

**What Is It?**

Turn to

EPHESIANS

Hebrews

6:1-6

# Being in Christ

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Moves us from a hope in our own external righteousness to the perfect inward righteousness of Christ.

We understand this on a theological level, but why is it not more evident in our day-to-day lives?

# What We Should See

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This should radicalize our conduct – we love the unlovable; we forgive the unforgivable; we are content in all circumstances; we subordinate ourselves for the glory of our Lord.



# What is a “Christian?” EPHESIANS

- **Acts 11:26** – “...the disciples were first called *Christians* in Antioch.”
- **Acts 26:28** – “Agrippa replied to Paul, ‘In a short time you will persuade me to become a *Christian*.’”
- **1 Peter 4:16** – “but if anyone suffers as a *Christian*, he is not to be ashamed...”





THE  
BOOK  
OF  
MORMON

ANOTHER TESTAMENT  
OF JESUS CHRIST



**YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO**

**HELL**

**GOD**

is

2 Cor. 5:11

**AMERICA'S**

PENNSYLVANIA



**THANK  
GOD  
FOR  
DEAD  
SOLDIERS**



# Being a “Christian”

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- A cultural affiliation
- The “western tradition”
- Belonging to an institution
- Had an emotional experience
- “Prayed a Prayer”
- Associate with politics

**But “In Christ”**

EPHESIANS

Pulls no punches.

**It does not allow for a self-serving  
redefining of terms.**

It demands a changed life.

**No wonder Paul loved it!**

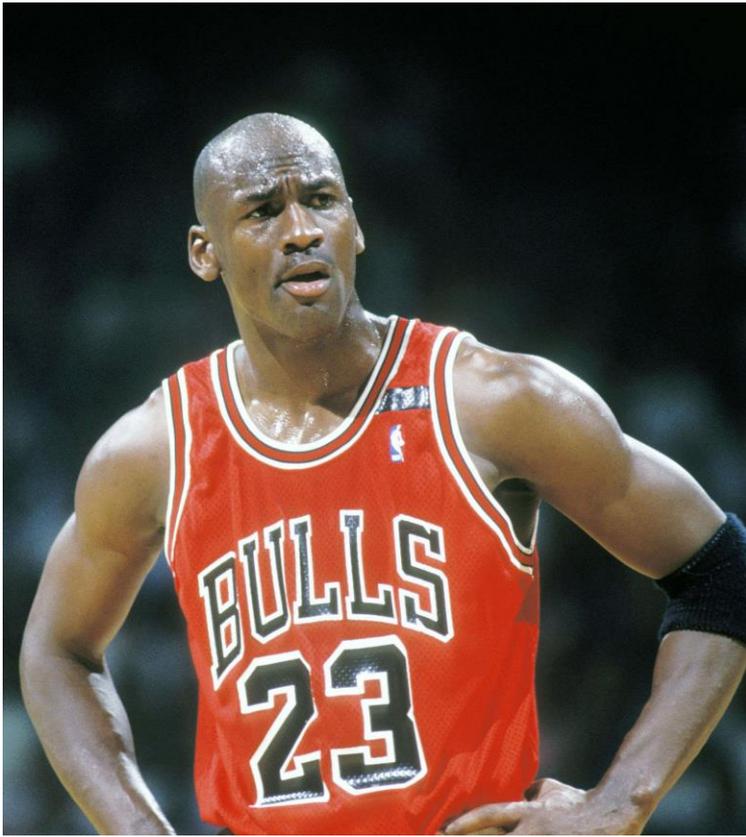
# Do You Love It?

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- Philippians 1:21a –

“For to me, to live is Christ”

Christianity *is* Christ.



One of These is the Real Deal

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## 4. Supernatural Unity

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- Ephesians 2:5-6 –

“even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**”

## Because we are In Him!

- Galatians 3:28 –

“There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave nor free man,  
there is neither male nor female; for  
you are all one **in Christ Jesus.**”

# Alexander McLaren:

## EPHESIANS

“When these words were spoken, the then-known civilized world was cleft by great, deep gulfs of separation...Language, religion, national animosities, differences of condition...split the world up into alien fragments. A ‘stranger’ and an ‘enemy’ were expressed in one language, by the same word. The learned and the unlearned, the slave and his master, the barbarian and the Greek, the man and the woman, stood on opposite sides of the gulfs, flinging hostility across. Then the benefits of the Gospel came! Then ‘the Barbarian, Scythian, bond and free, male and female, Jew and Greek...’ clasped hands and sat down at one table, and felt themselves “all one in Christ Jesus.’ They were ready to break all bonds.”

Do We Find  
Ourselves In A  
Similar Situation  
Today?

# The “In Christ”

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Is what conquers the world.

What is the cure for racism, sexism,  
and all other forms of prejudice?

It is unapologetically the gospel of  
Jesus Christ.

# There is No Hope

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For reconciliation in humanistic, me-first philosophies.

Those truly in Christ can experience a friendship that surpasses all others in its understanding, commitment, and comfort.

And that should be the immovable standard of the church.

John 17:11

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“I am no longer in the world;  
and yet they themselves are in  
the world, and I come to You.  
Holy Father, keep them in Your  
name, the name which You have  
given Me, that they may be one  
even as We are.”

## Revelation 5:9-10

## EPHESIANS

**9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. **10** “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

## 5. Deep Satisfaction

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- John 6:35 –

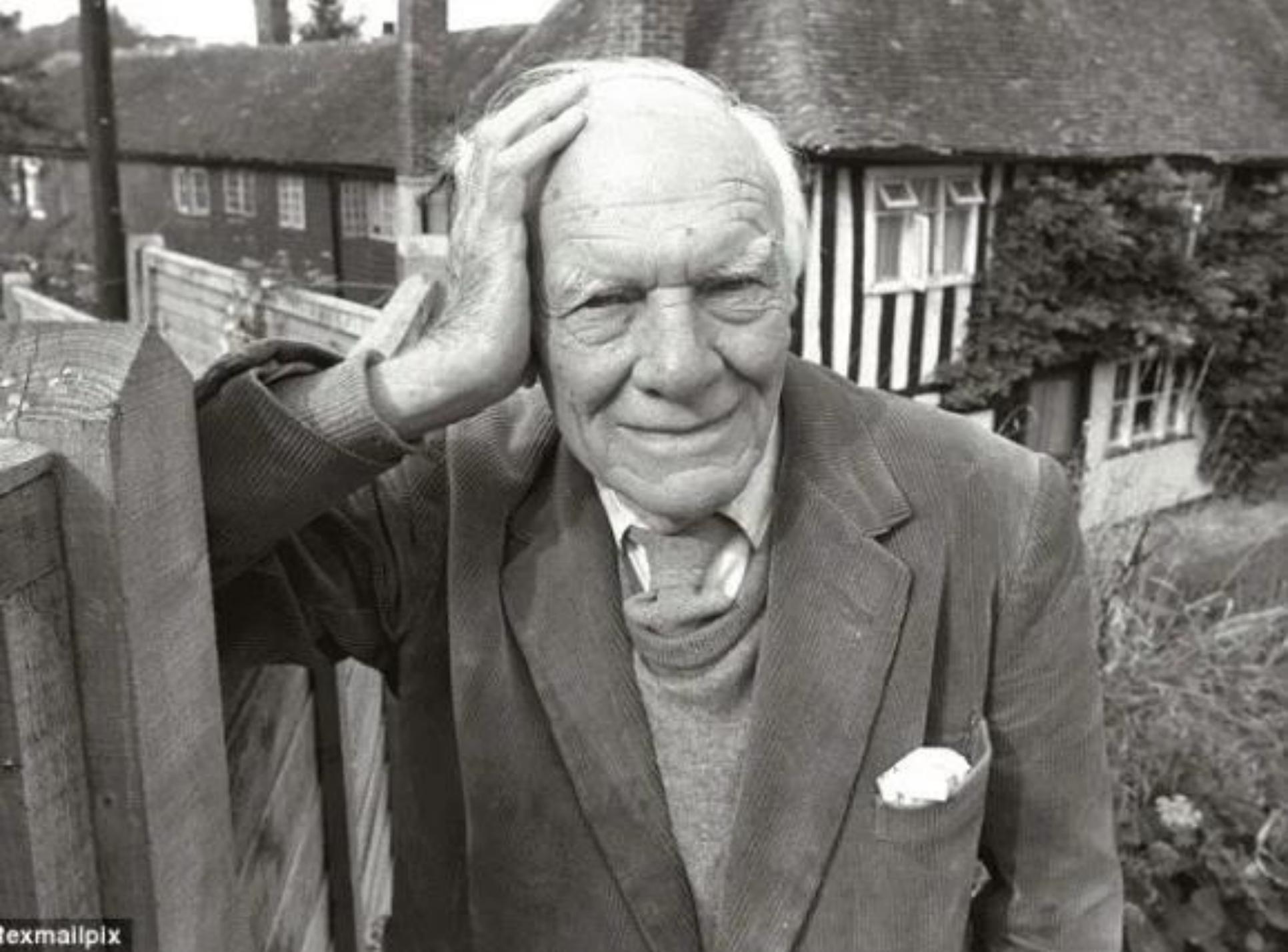
“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.’”

Then...

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Why Are We  
So  
Thirsty?!?!





“I may, I suppose, regard myself, or pass for being, a relatively successful man. People occasionally stare at me in the streets—that’s fame...Furnished with money and a little fame even the elderly, if they care to, may partake of trendy diversions—that’s pleasure. It might happen once in a while that something I said or wrote was sufficiently heeded for me to persuade myself that it represented a serious impact on our time—that’s fulfillment. Yet I say to you, and I beg you to believe me, multiply these tiny triumphs by a million, add them all together, and they are nothing—less than nothing—a positive impediment—measured against one draught of that living water Christ offers to the spiritually thirsty—irrespective of who or what they are. What, I ask myself, does life hold, what is there in the works of time, in the past, now and to come, which could possibly be put in the balance against the refreshment of drinking that water?”

## John 7:37-38

## EPHESIANS

**37** Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. **38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

**THE BACKSLIDER LIKES THE PREACHING  
THAT WOULDN'T HIT THE SIDE OF A HOUSE,  
WHILE THE REAL DISCIPLE IS DELIGHTED  
WHEN THE TRUTH BRINGS HIM TO HIS  
KNEES.**

**- BILLY SUNDAY -**

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# How Does This Happen? EPHESIANS

- Ephesians 1:13 –

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise”

# Blessings “In Christ”

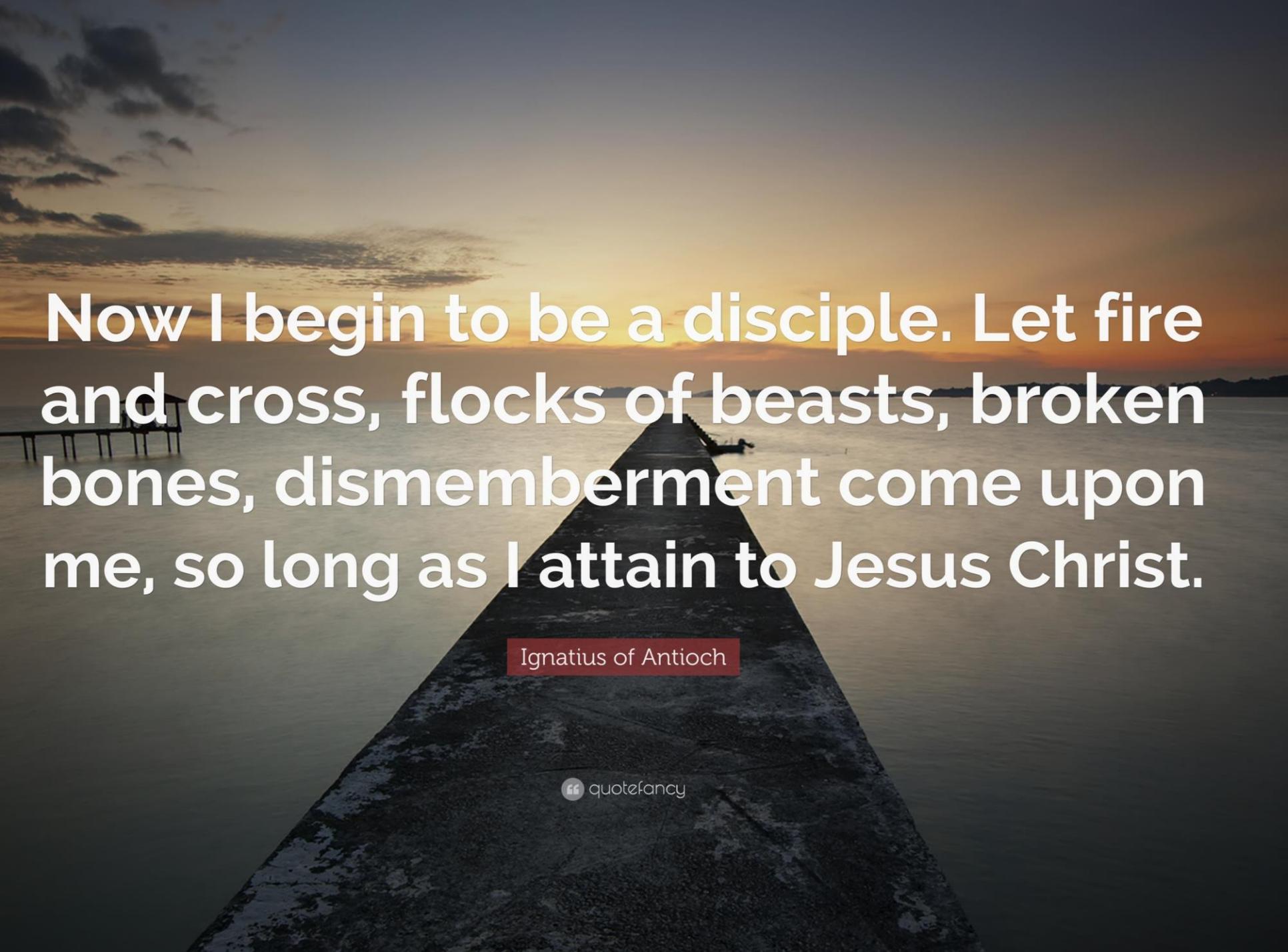
## EPHESIANS

1. In Christ you were given grace before the world was created. (2 Timothy 1:9)
2. In Christ you were chosen by God before creation. (Ephesians 1:4)
3. In Christ you are loved by God with an inseparable love. (Romans 8:38–39)
4. In Christ you were redeemed and forgiven for all your sins. (Ephesians 1:7)
5. In Christ you are justified before God and the righteousness of God in Christ is imputed to you. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
6. In Christ you have become a new creation and a son of God. (Galatians 3:26)
7. In Christ you have been seated in the heavenly places even while he lived on earth. (Ephesians 2:6)
8. In Christ all the promises of God are Yes for you. (2 Corinthians 1:20)
9. In Christ you are being sanctified and made holy. (1 Corinthians 1:2)
10. In Christ everything you really need will be supplied. (Philippians 4:19)
11. In Christ the peace of God will guard your heart and mind. (Philippians 4:7)
12. In Christ you have eternal life. (Romans 6:23)
13. In Christ you will be raised from the dead at the coming of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:22)



# IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

35-107

A long, dark pier extends from the foreground into the ocean, leading towards a bright sunset on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the water reflects the colors of the sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Now I begin to be a disciple. Let fire and cross, flocks of beasts, broken bones, dismemberment come upon me, so long as I attain to Jesus Christ.

Ignatius of Antioch

# The Big Questions

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- Have you “listened to the message of truth?”
- Have you believed “the gospel of your salvation?”
- Have you been “sealed in Him?”

**Are You “IN CHRIST?”**

# EPHESIANS