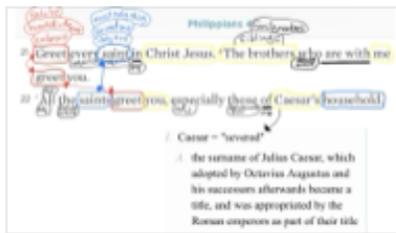


IN CHRIST, THINGS ARE NEW: Philippians 4:21-22



BIG IDEA: In Christ, you have been given new fellows, a new identity, a new family, and a new King.

I. In Christ, you have new fellows—fellow believers who cherish you

Philippians 4:21-22 "21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household."

- **MACARTHUR:** "Paul's threefold repetition of the word *greet* implies a strong bond of fellowship. As he closed his letter to them, Paul expressed his love for the members of the Philippian congregation and his concern for their spiritual well-being."
- This word "Greet" would be close to how we may say, "Tell them I love them" or "Give them a hug for me."
- **In Psalm 16:3 David is writing, but He is truly just foreshadowing Jesus our Lord. He sings, "As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."**
- **Q. Do you know this is how people feel about you, if you are in Christ through faith?**
- **You may say to me, "Why on earth would someone cherish me?"** And I would say to you, because if you are a believer that means you have been ransomed from slavery to sin and death—and you were ransomed not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ."
- ***If Christ spilled His precious blood for you, you are precious to fellow believers.***

Oh think of the gift that fellow believers are to you, dear Christian!

- **Outside of Christ you have little more than fair-weather friends; in Christ you have fellow believers who cherish you.**
- **Outside of Christ you have friends who are indifferent toward**

your getting entangled in sin and death; in Christ you have fellow believers who embrace you with love and seek for you that which leads to eternal life.

- **CHILDREN:** If Jesus loves something we should love it too. What does Jesus love? He loves His Church. **Ephesians 5:25** "Jesus loved the church and gave Himself up for her."
- **We cherish fellow believers because Jesus cherishes them.** Christ only had one death to die and He died for His bride.

Oh you must love the Bride of Christ or you will be at odds with Christ Himself! He will not wink at those who abhor His wife.

- **THOMAS BOSTON (1676-1732):** "Happy are they that pick the pearl out of the dunghill and love the saints simply because they belong to Jesus."
- **Q. Do you have genuine affection for those who also believe in Christ Jesus?** If so, praise God! If not, know that reveals selfish desires lurking as enemies in your heart. Ask God to kill your selfishness and grant you to cherish His bride that He does.

In Christ, you have fellow believers who cherish you.

II. In Christ, you have a new identity—SAINT

Philippians 4:21-22 "21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household."

- **Saints** = Hagios (248x). MEANING: "most holy thing; one who has been set apart for service to God; consecrated one." **Paul says in Col. 1:12** "... [give] thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the **SAINTS** in Light."
- **Q. So, what is a saint? A.** A saint is someone who has had their sin removed and righteousness counted to them through faith in Christ Jesus. Jesus lived, died, and arose to count all who have faith in Him holy before God.
 - **Christ Jesus takes despised sinners wearing filthy robes and transforms them into cherished saints dressed with righteousness.**
- **In Christ, you are not only a saint generally, just lumped in with the whole;** no! you are a saint individually because Christ worked your salvation particularly.
 - **Q.** Do you still identify as **SINNER** or do you, by God's grace, humbly identify as a **SAINT** to the praise of His glorious grace?
- **Man made religion would tell you that you must achieve the status of sainthood through your works;** the gospel says you must receive the

status of sainthood by faith in Jesus and His finished work!

- **Q.** Are you trying to achieve sainthood through your works or are you trusting in Christ Jesus alone and receiving sainthood through His finished work?
- **CHILDREN:** If you trust in Jesus and submit to Him, you have the exact same identity as a Christian that is 70 years old. If Christ Jesus is YOUR SAVIOR, YOUR KING, you are HIS SAINT!
- **From the weakest believer to the strongest; from the least sanctified to the most, we all have exactly the same status before God.**
- **God loves you, Christian.** He chose you. He called you. He regenerated you. He justified you. He washed you. He adopted you. He is sanctifying you. He will glorify you. Nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus!

In Christ, you have a new identity—SAINT.

III. In Christ, you have a new Family—*BROTHERS AND SISTERS*

Philippians 4:21-22 "21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household."

- **1 Timothy 3:14-15** "I am writing these things to you so that. . .you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."
- *Not the BUILDING, but the PEOPLE are the household of God—God's family!*
- **1 Timothy 5:1-2** "encourage [older men] as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity."

I) In Christ, God the Father has adopted you into His family!

- **We are not merely *called* children of God—it is what we are!**
- **BARTHOLOMEW ASHWOOD:** "Adoption is the taking of persons that are strangers and undeserving in themselves . . .bringing them into a new family and condition. . .out of the family of Satan into the family of God (Col. 1:13)."

II) In Christ, the Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God—He is even called the Spirit of Adoption! (Romans 8:15)

- **The Spirit of God works in the people of God, preaching to their hearts that they are in fact the children of God!**

II) In Christ, the Son of God becomes our brother who worked to Redeem us and make us His fellow heirs!

- The Son of God Jesus Christ became man so that men would become sons of God through being united to Him by faith!
 - **Q.** Do you need a godly family? Look around you and see that you have one in Christ.
 - **Family blood is thicker than water** and the blood of Christ is thicker than your ancestry. Jesus makes us family through His shed blood on the cross!
- **CHILDREN:** you will have more in common with another Christian than your own parent or brother or sister if they are not in Christ. Do not let this surprise you!

In Christ, you have a new family—BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

IV. In Christ, you have a new King—**CHRISTOS KYRIOS**

Philippians 4:21-22 "21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household."

- It is almost as if Paul is winking at the Philippians when he tells them that some who are in Caesar's household are now bending the knee to Christ. Jesus is King, not Caesar! They have a new King! So do you.
- **MACARTHUR:** "Caesar's household included more than just the members of his family; it included all those in his direct employ, both lowly slaves and high-ranking freemen. In today's terminology, they were government workers. . . Both [Paul] and the Philippians were no doubt thrilled that the household of the pagan emperor had yielded up many souls to the kingdom of Christ."
 - "Although the early Christians were a minority in the Roman Empire and often persecuted, they took pains to obey the laws of the land. That is what we learn from the writings of second-century Christians such as Justin Martyr, who was one of the first apologists (defenders of the faith). These early Christians paid their taxes, prayed for the emperor, and fulfilled their civic duties. There was one demand placed upon them, however, that they could not meet. When the authorities ordered them to say, "Caesar is Lord," they refused. There was only one whom they would acknowledge as "Lord," namely, the Lord Jesus Christ." — **Ligonier Ministries**
- *If often cost them their position in society, their possessions, their earthy*

families, even their very lives!

- **Q. What has is cost you to submit to Christ as your King?**
- Whatever it costs you is not to be compared with the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord! If you must suffer the loss of all things, count them as rubbish compared with the priceless treasure of knowing Christ Jesus and submitting to Him as King.
- **There is only one crown your heart has to give. There is only one throne in your soul. There is only one scepter you can fear.** You cannot serve God and mammon; you cannot bow to Caesar and Christ.
- **1 Timothy 6:13-15** "I charge you in the presence of God. . .[even] Christ Jesus. . .to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. . .—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords."

**Christ is King—He is the King who bled for sinners like you and like me.
Oh Crown Him by faith; obey Him in joy; fear Him in humble service.**