

Great are the Benefits of Being in Christ

Christ is our Prophet, Priest, and King, and through our union with Christ, each believer enjoys many privileges. Christ is “in” His people, and they are “in” Him. Jesus told us, **John 14:20**: *“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.”* Peter wrote, **1 Peter 2:9**: *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”* Like Jesus, God’s Anointed Son, those in Christ are also anointed. **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**: *“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”* We are prophetic because God anoints us with the Holy Spirit **to know the truth of God** and to encourage us to speak it as witnesses to unbelievers for the building up of the church. **1 John 2:20**: *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.”* Jesus said, **Acts 1:8**: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Granted, not all Christians are called to be preachers, but we are called to speak God’s word to unbelievers when we have the opportunity. Additionally, believers enjoy being a priestly group because we have access to God and can enjoy bold communion with Him in prayer and worship. **Isaiah 61:6**: *“But you will be called the priests of the Lord; You will be spoken of as ministers of our God...”* and **1 Peter 2:5**: *“you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”* You see, God’s priestly people have open access to God’s heavenly presence through Jesus Christ. His blood cleanses us of guilt. Jesus’ intercession as our High Priest secures our welcome. **Hebrews 10:19-22**: *“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let’s approach God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”* We are likewise a kingly people because we already reign in saving grace and are overcomers in our suffering and in our spiritual warfare against evil, all because of Christ’s finished work. Therefore, we no longer live for ourselves but for the Lord. **Revelation 1:5-6**: *“Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood, and He made us into a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”* We are redeemed and restored to bear God’s image as His servant-kings in the new creation. We are kings, priests, conquerors, living for Jesus and seeking the best for ourselves, not in this world but in the age to come. We realize that we do not exist for ourselves but for God.