

What Is Your Position in Life?

By

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We may sometimes feel like the story Mark Smith told about his son in a Reader's Digest article.

"Like many high school seniors, my son was filling out college-scholarship applications. One form asked for extracurricular activities.

He answered: "wrestling."

The next question requested "positions held."

He entered: "pinned, mostly."

This young man's response may be a metaphor for the way many people feel about their lives. Pinned down. However, the Bible provides some Good News for those who choose to live their lives for Christ.

Many people define themselves by their career or profession. Others by their wealth, social status, or position. Young people often feel defined by their parents, grandparents, or family name. Some people define themselves by their looks. Or even their extra curricular activities like Mark Smith's son.

Identity is significant. It actually has to do with personality. Individual characteristics. Distinctiveness. Uniqueness. Character. When people have a difficult time of "knowing who they are" counselors call that "an identity crisis." Christians, however, can look at themselves and their identity from an eternal perspective. "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for" (Eph 1:11)

The Bible says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature, old things have passed away; behold all things have become new" (2 Cor 5:17) Who you are as a person has to do with Christ. Your position in life is tied to your relationship with Jesus.

The expression "in Christ" is used 87 times in the New Testament to identify our association. Our affiliation. Our alliance. We are connected to Christ. United with Him. Joined with Him. We have a partnership. Relationship. Kinship. My position in life is defined by my fellowship, friendship and fraternity with Jesus.

The Bible affirms that "God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together

with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:4-6).

These Ephesians had been "dead in trespasses in sins." Their minds were filled with fleshly desires. Their lives were characterized by carnality, sensuality and depravity (Eph 2:1-3). They were enslaved to the devil. Dominated by his influence. And directed by his control. Pinned, spiritually.

But now they've been lifted. Freed. Raised up to sit with Christ. And enjoy spiritual blessings in Christ. When our spiritual position in life changes, it impacts everything. Here are 3 advantages of this new position.

In Christ we experience acceptance. People seek to be accepted. And, too often they look in all the wrong places to all the wrong people to find acceptance. I am accepted as God's child (John 1:12). I am called Jesus' friend (John 15:15). And I am given access to the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18).

In Christ we enjoy security. I enjoy peace of mind and heart (Phil. 4:6-7). I am free from condemnation (Rom. 8:11-2). When I am "in Christ" my faith in The faith frees me from guilt. I can be released from the burden of sin. From its blame. And its bondage. Jesus promised, "You shall know the Truth, and the truth shall make you free." Ahhh, a free man! That's who I am!

In Christ we find significance. Life without meaning, is life without purpose. But God eternally planned for those who belong to Him, to find purpose in Him. In his Son. In his Word. "Does my life really matter,?" you ask. And God answers with a resounding, "YES!"

We are His workmanship. We are created in His image. And after His likeness. We are His spiritual partners on this earth. Rick Warren was right when he wrote, "It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. Every other path leads to a dead-end."

What's your position in life? You don't have to be pinned.