

## Sons of God “In Christ Jesus”

Ponder: What is your spiritual location?

Scripture: “For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through (the) faith” (Galatians 3:26, ESV).

God invites everyone (not only Jews) to be His sons (not minor children, but adults). He is pleased to do this by means of “the faith” (i.e. the gospel of Christ, not the law of Moses). This answers three questions: “Who?” (All.) “What?” (Sons.) How? (By means of the faith.)

Now let’s ask “Where?” As people become sons of God, their spiritual location changes. Whereas they formerly were in Satan’s domain of darkness, now they are “in Christ Jesus.”

It is critical to understand that the prepositional phrase “in Christ Jesus” modifies “sons.” It tells “where” the sons are. It does *\*not\** modify “faith.” At the risk of sounding hyper-critical, most of our English versions are weak and confusing here. They commonly read, “through faith in Christ Jesus,” as though Paul is identifying Jesus as the object of our personal faith. Many other passages show that Jesus is, indeed the One in Whom we place our trust (faith). But Paul’s point in this verse is that sons of God are located “in Christ Jesus.” The English standard version comes closer to accuracy than most others: “for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through (the) faith.”

Geographically, I’m happy to reside in the USA. But what about my spiritual location? (And what about yours?) You won’t find “in Christ” or “in Christ Jesus” on a road map or in an atlas. Not even your GPS will recognize that location. But you will find it dozens of times in the New Testament! All spiritual blessings are “in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). Redemption is “in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24). Those “in Christ” are new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17). Salvation itself is “in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:10).

If the food is in the kitchen, and you want access to the food, where should you go? Obvious, right? Now, if you want the privilege of sonship and all the advantages that come with it, what should your spiritual location be? That’s equally obvious, and we’ll move on to Galatians 3:27 next time to answer our final question, “When?”

Song: “Victory In Jesus”

Prayer: Gracious Father, we marvel with thankfulness that You would want sinful creatures like us to be Your sons. You are worthy of ceaseless praise for devising such a wonderful plan to save us from our sins and locate us in Christ Jesus. Help us to rejoice in our exalted status as Your sons, and to realize that it is all by Your grace. In Jesus’ name, Amen.