

# Mission Statement IN CHRIST

## OUR MISSION

**"Because God has shown us Love and Forgiveness IN CHRIST, we Welcome everyone to experience His Compassion."**

There are so many rich scriptures that speak about living our life "in Christ."

How could a Scripture about living "in Christ" be anything other than rich?

**"And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 4:19)

I have my favourite "IN CHRIST" Scriptures.

I'm sure you do as well.

**"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."** (Philippians 4:19)

**"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."**

(Romans 8:1)

**"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** (Romans 6:23)

**"Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death."** (Romans 8:2-3 TM)

**"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."** (1 Corinthians 15:22)

**"Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one—as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in us so that the world will believe You sent Me. I have given them the glory You gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and You are in Me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me and that You love them as much as You love Me. Father, I want these whom You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they can see all the glory You gave Me because You loved Me even before the world began!"** (John 17:20-24)

I could go on all morning just looking at Scripture that uses "In Christ".

The New Testament is riddled with this thought.

And being "IN CHRIST" is at the heart of our Mission Statement.

It is the central thought.

God has shown us love and forgiveness in Jesus.

Being in Jesus gives us the wonderful assurance of salvation.

**Our salvation is not just a doctrine or a theology.**

If that is all that it is, we will always be under the "low-lying black cloud".

There will always be doubt about our salvation.

We will wonder if we know enough to be saved.

We will wonder if we have lived good enough to be saved.

We will never experience rest and peace.

There will always be a nagging "what if" lingering in our minds.

"In Christ" is not theology.

"In Christ" is relationship.

"In Christ" I am in a personal relationship with the Father.

"In Christ" means Jesus is living in me.

"In Christ" is the reality that I have yielded everything to Him.

"In Christ" does not stop with forgiveness.

"In Christ" moves to total surrender of control.

Being "in Christ" means living by the Spirit.

Apart from Christ I can do nothing.

"In Christ" I can do all things.

"In Christ" I mount up on eagles wings

"In Christ" I wait for a great reward that I have in store.

"In Christ" I have His righteousness.

"In Christ" I have what I confess.

"In Christ" I don't worry about all the rest.

Cause everything I need to be is in Christ.

In Him we live and move.

And in Him we have our being.

It's in Christ." (Michael Weaver CCLI # 3504598)

So let's look at what Paul tells us life is like "in Christ".

**I In Christ we live TRIUMPHANTLY** (vs.14)

In Christ God always leads us in triumph.

Can you picture the Roman Triumph?

It's a long procession.

The victorious general is in his chariot drawn by four white horses.

His soldiers are robed.

There is the shouting multitude of spectators relishing the victory.

The sullen captives flash hatred at them from their sunken eyes.

Clouds of fragrant incense envelop the parade.

That aroma penetrates the senses of victor and captive alike.

There are seven conditions that must be met for a Triumph to proceed.

1. The General must have been a commander in the battle.
2. The campaign must be completely finished.
3. The region must be brought back to peace or completely subdued.
4. The troops must be brought back home.
5. A minimum 5,000 of the enemy must be slain in one engagement.
6. New territory must be claimed rather than lost territory regained.
7. And it must be a victory over a foreign foe and not a civil war.

Jesus is truly worthy of the Triumph.

He accomplished all of that and more.

Paul knew that being in Christ always resulted in triumph.

Paul sees Christ marching in triumph.

He is in a triumph march that nothing can stop.

Jesus is the King who has conquered sin and death.

That is the triumph we have in Christ.

Paul knows it is true because he is in Christ.

He has been conquered by God's love and forgiveness in Christ.

He is in the procession, but he is not the one riding in the chariot.

Paul is among those who have been conquered by love.

What sort of enemy was Paul that he needed to be conquered in Christ?

He lived a pure and virtuous life.

He lived a respectable life.

Everyone spoke well of him, a Pharisee to the Pharisees.

He was blameless in living out the law - people saw him as righteous.

He was sober, temperate, chaste.

No one could speak evil about him.

He had a clear conscience.

He was deeply religious and conscientious.

But even with all of that he was an enemy of Jesus.

He tried to stamp out those who followed Jesus.

His life was barren.

He knew nothing of love and forgiveness.

He knew nothing of deepest faith and purest love.

He was respectable and religious.

And yet he knew he was an enemy of Jesus.

Why? Simply because he was not in Christ.

Now, white out the name of Paul and write in your own name.

Change the name and the story is true about you.

We think we are respectable people.

We are trying to live pure and righteous lives.

We try to be kind to others.

We try to get along with our neighbours and be faithful to our family.

We do our part to make our society better and get upset over crime.

We try to let our conscience be our guide.

We don't want to be a bad person.

**And yet every one of us needs to be conquered.**

Has your will been bowed and broken?

Has your heart been overcome and conquered by this mighty Prince?

Are you in Christ?

For all your righteousness and respectability you are still hostile.

For all your outward appearance of piety you are still rebellious.

And you will remain an enemy of Christ until you are in Christ.

We can try and put on a good show of love and forgiveness.

But until we are willing to march in the TRIUMPH with Christ we are His enemy.

**We cannot possibly love and forgive until God's love and forgiveness have captured us in Christ.**

**"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in Triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere." (vs.14)**

And this brings us to verse 17

## **II In Christ we live SINCERELY (v 17)**

In living Triumphantly Paul used the illustration of victory in battle.

In living Sincerely Paul uses another illustration of a merchant or vender.  
**Corinth was famous as a city of pleasure.**

It had a bustling night life that centered around the goddess Aphrodite.

She was the Greek goddess of love, beauty, pleasure.

There was always the flow of wine to lubricate the lusts for pleasure.

There were prolific peddlers of pleasure.

And these peddlers were in the business of making money.

The simplest way to do that was to stretch the supply of wine.

So these peddlers would take the good wine and mix in poor wine.

Or they would water the wine down to increase their profit.

**The tavern keepers sold adulterated wine as pure wine.**

This was called adulterating the wine.

It was no longer pure or genuine.

It was an insincere wine.

**If we are not in Christ we will lack purity in what we do.**

We will not love or forgive sincerely.

**The god we peddle will not be genuine.**

**We will dilute God and the gospel.**

We will make the gospel suit our thinking and change the message.

A peddler will water sin down and make it seem respectable.

**A peddler will not be the aroma of Christ and His fragrance.**

A peddler will leave a foul aroma of death.

And people will know that the hope we offer is not genuine.

People will see through a fake.

In Christ we will speak the truth.

When we are in Christ, we will not adulterate the gospel.

We will not dilute it to serve our purposes or comfort.

We must be in Christ otherwise we are those tavern keepers or peddlers.

Without Christ we mix a brew of words but there is no sincerity.

There is only one fragrance for those who are in Christ.

There is only one perfume, and that is Jesus Himself.

There are not two fragrances one for the world and one for faith.

We don't wear a fragrance in order to fit in.

We wear a fragrance because we are in Christ.

Sometimes being in Christ we will be a welcome and sweet aroma.

Sometimes being in Christ will make us repugnant.

For those who respond to Christ in faith the fragrance is full of life.

For those who reject Christ the fragrance is full of death.

The power of the gospel is never ineffective.

The gospel always has effect.

The gospel will either lead to life or lead to death.

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ... Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ... For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart.' Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:9-10, 13, 17-24)

In Christ alone we speak with sincerity rather than self-sufficiency.

We can never love enough or forgive enough in our own strength or will.

We will only sincerely impact our world in Christ.

"but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord.'" (1 Corinthians 1:27-31)

When we are in Christ our Mission Statement will ring true.

People will experience genuine love and forgiveness.

In Christ we become His fragrant presence.

In Christ we are the aroma of Christ to God and others.

Are you hungry for Jesus today?

I invite you to experience living in triumph and in sincerity.

Let Jesus be the source of your life, your wisdom, your righteousness, your sanctification, your redemption.

Closing Song Hungry, In Christ Alone