

## **“I AM ACCEPTED IN CHRIST”**

### **Ephesians 1:6**

**W**HAT makes you feel accepted by others?

As far as being accepted by others, what definition is given for the word “accepted” in a dictionary?

In the Old Testament, to be accepted by God was based upon the keeping of the Law. As you know, man could not do this on His own so God provided a way through His Son to make us acceptable to Him. God is holy, and we must be holy as well if we are to be accepted as His child and have ongoing fellowship with Him. Holiness and purity are a necessary part of our lives in order to enjoy an intimate relationship with Christ.

I hope you are beginning to see how God goes to very great lengths to convey His acceptance of us. In Ephesians 1:5, the Amplified puts it in this way: **“He planned in love for us.”** Does that sound like anything anyone would do who didn’t care about you? You are part of the ones that He planned for and it was done in the pure and undefiled atmosphere of a loving God. This portion of Scripture goes on to say that He **freely** bestowed on us so that we could be His adopted child. That doesn’t sound to me like anyone who held back and half-heartedly did what He did.

God is no respecter of persons or positions as far as who He accepts. Look at the following references and **write down** what is said in light of this.

Acts 10:34, 35:

Galatians 2:6:

Revelation 3:20 says that Christ stands at the door (of our hearts) and knocks. It goes on to say if **anyone** hears and heeds His voice, He will come in. Another indication of acceptance with some eagerness is behind that knocking! Anyone is anyone...no exceptions listed.

To further show evidence of His eager waiting to accept us, take a look at John 3:16. This is a verse most people can quote from memory. Think about it! God sent His Son into the world and **whosoever** (no exception listed of who...in fact place your name in the "whosoever" spot) believes on Him **will have** everlasting life. In each and every verse, the **ONLY** stipulation to being accepted depends upon **YOU** and me and our reaction to that invitation. In case you would like one more illustration to eliminate any possibility of doubt, read the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:20-32). This son went off on his own "to live it up!" He eventually lost everything he once had as far as earthly goods. (**Side-note:** He was accepted by all of his friends as long as he had something of this world's material goods). His end condition was that everything was stripped away and he ended up homeless, filthy, stinky, and living in absolute filth. I'm sure that as he headed home, it was with some reservations of how he would be accepted (especially in his condition). There are many who have testimonies of how they were spiritually living in filth and "stunk"; but as we see in the Prodigal Son parable, how was he accepted?

Reflect on that for a minute.

# WELCOME

As we previously mentioned, being accepted is totally dependent on us. Isn't it amazing that who you are in Christ is a two way response?

To the one truly seeking Him, God gives us an unconditional promise of acceptance. Hebrews 6:17 says, "Accordingly God also, in **HIS DESIRE** to show more convincingly and beyond doubt to those who were to inherit the promise intervened **WITH AN OATH.**" Verses 18 and 19 continue with a promise that He gives to those who come to Him. What is it?

As we mentioned previously, the **ONLY** thing that keeps us from being accepted is our sin. **Look up** Genesis 4:7 and Isaiah 59:2 and put in your own words what is being stated.

## **OUR PART IN THE ACCEPTANCE:**

In order for Christ's acceptance to be effective in our lives, it requires four things from us. If you have met these conditions, place a check mark beside each of the following Scripture references which pertain to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ We must believe!  
John 3:15, 36                      John 12:45

\_\_\_\_\_ Accept the offer from God through His Son (by repentance on our part)  
Luke 13:3

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit oneself to following Jesus.  
John 8:31                      Matthew 16:24  
John 14:15                     John 15:8

\_\_\_\_\_ Confessing Him as Lord.  
Matthew 10:32                Romans 10:9,10

How did you do? Were you able to check all of them? If so, be assured! You are accepted! You are a part of His family. No matter where you came from, who your parents were, no matter what your position in life, no matter where you live...**YOU ARE ACCEPTED and YOU ARE GREATLY LOVED!**



***"God has poured out his love into our hearts...."***  
***Romans 5:5***