

Summary Notes: Partakers in Christ (Part 1)

(Taken from Scott D. Griffin's sermon, delivered 3/8/2020 at Grace Bible Church from his "[In Christ](#)" series)

The Apostle Paul was actually addressing some animosity in the early Church between Jewish believers and Gentile believers (Reading: [Ephesians 3:4-7](#)), as he clarified the concept of all believers as partakers in Christ.

There are differences between Jews and Gentiles, but the focus is on *believing* Jews and Gentiles. It is false that there are no differences between Jew and Gentile, male and female, or slave and free. When God makes a promise, *HE WILL FULFILL IT!* God is telling us here that *WE ARE ALL SAVED IN THE SAME WAY* – Not that we are all the same.

In [Col. 2:11](#), we see the new and improved circumcision – the one made without hands. Everything we have today is related to the spiritual, and is equal and across the board ([Romans 8:2](#)) The law is not written on a stone, but now it is written in our hearts (mentality of our souls). Instead of animal sacrifices, we give spiritual and living sacrifices ([1 Peter 2:5](#)). Instead of physical temples, there is our body, the temple and abode of the Trinity. The Sabbath (day of rest) has become our new Sabbath (Resting in Faith) done moment by moment, rather than 1 day per week. Birth itself is renewed – we are *reborn*. Jesus' mother was reborn, because of *Him*, NOT because of any goodness in her. The overemphasis of the physical motherhood of Mary has unfortunately led to the false concept of her sinlessness and even deity.

The better promises of the New Covenant are the reality learned by the people from the Covenant to Israel. Heir-ship is based upon Son-ship ([Romans 8:16](#)). *Heir* means those who receive by grace in Son-ship – not by our own merit, but by the work of our Lord Jesus Christ; we are joint heirs with

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Christ ([Hebrews 9:15-18](#)). [Hebrews 1:2](#) tells us that Jesus has been appointed Heir of ALL THINGS, but we are told that we are Joint Heirs! This is pretty amazing! So then, by authority of the Word of God, so do we have *ALL THINGS*!

In Ephesians 3:6 we have the words “*fellow heirs*” and “*fellow members of the body*” (σύσσωμα and συμμετοχα – both preceded by the same two letters “SU”, meaning *joint* or *fellow*) that indicates unity of all of us as a part of the body. This includes many things. All Church Age believers are members of this body, and Jesus Christ is the Head – Ruler of the Church ([Eph 5:23, 24](#)). The Father is the Head and He controls the body, and He has authority over it. We can accept this authority and be blessed, or ignore or reject it, and be disciplined. The priority of the Body is the Head. The emphasis here is the mystery doctrine of the Church Age. We *receive* our thought patterns; we are going for the *thinking* – the Mind – of Jesus Christ!

What we are thinking reflects to everyone else. Your mental attitude comes from your soul, and reflects it. Our motivation in life should come from His Thinking.

We all have the same purpose, we are fighting the same fight, we’re all on the same team. Often this means taking a weaker believer under your wing, not running over him or her. Whether weak or strong, we all have a role, and a spiritual gift. We are to learn what it is, and we are to *USE it*.

We all have different spiritual gifts, different talents and abilities, but we are all to function together ([1 Corinthians 12](#); [Romans 12](#)). We are to figure out what our job is, and *GET GOOD AT IT!*