



# Steve Pettit

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**The Dan Stone Retreat  
2017**



## **#1 In Christ: In The Arena of Living Oneness**

**“In Christ”, All Distance Disappears**  
– Jo 17:24; 14:3; I Cor 6:17

**“In Christ” is the starting point for all things Christian – Ro 3:24; Jo 3:16; Jo 1:12**  
- Our history “in Adam” comes to an end, our history “in Christ” begins – II Cor 5:17



## **To Be “In Christ” Is to Be In His Relationship to All Things – Rev 21:5**

**We received a full supply of His Life – Jo 1:16; Col 2:9-10**

**- We are justified in Christ –  
Ro 3:24; Ga 2:16**  
**...we received a justified  
“Life” – Ro 5:18**  
**(only the righteous can  
be like Jesus!)**



- **We are sanctified in Christ – I Cor 1:2; 6:11; Col 1:22; Heb 2:11; 10:14**

**...we received a sanctified “Life” – Ro 6:22**  
**(only the holy can be like Jesus!)**

- **We are glorified in Christ – I Thess 1:11-12; I Pet 5:10**

**...we received a glorified “Life” – Ro 8:30**  
**(only the glorious can be like Jesus!)**



## **Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification Are Not Sequential, But Simultaneous!**

**- All the single work of God “in Christ”.**



## **#2 In Christ: In The Arena of Freedom**

### **3 Freedom Thieves:**

- 1) Sin Consciousness**
- 2) Law Consciousness**
- 3) Fear Consciousness**

**Romans 6: Our Freedom From Sin For Righteousness**



**- We are freed from sin... by death – Ro 6:5-7**

**...liberated from sins – Col 2:13 –  
what we did**

**...liberated from sin – II Cor 5:17 –  
what we were**

**- So we may walk in “newness of Life” –  
Ro 6:4,8**

**...we are free not to sin – Ro 6:12  
...the temptation is not against “just  
me”, but against “Christ in me” – Ro 6:1-  
2,5-7; Ga 2:20; Col 1:27**



**- To walk in the freedom of Christ is to walk in these words: “DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE TO GOD” – Ro 6:11**

## **Romans 7: Our Freedom From the Law For Grace**

**- The “ministry” of the law:**  
...reveals sin (7:7); arouses sin (7:8-9); empowers sin (I Cor 15:56)  
...it kills (7:10-11)



- The “ministry” of grace:
  - ...reveals sin; arouses righteousness (Ro 5:17-18); releases us from law (Ro 7:6; 8:4; 10:4)
    - ...it gives gifts – the gift of a new “you” – Eph 4:24; 2:1-10
- To walk in the freedom of Christ is to walk in these words: “NOT UNDER LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE”
  - Ro 6:14



## **Romans 8: Freedom From Fear For Love**

**- No fear of rejection, condemnation –**  
**Ro 8:1-4**

**...to condemn us God would have  
to condemn His Son in us**

**- No fear of defeat, of the opposition –**  
**Ro 8:9,11,37**

**...nothing created, outside of us  
can conquer Who is inside of us – Ro  
8:35ff**



**- No fear of meaninglessness,  
insignificance – Ro 8:16-30**

**...in the story of a changed life  
nothing is insignificant – Ro 8:28-29**

**- No fear of separation – Ro 8:35ff**  
**...we are being loved out of all our  
fears – I Jo 4:18**

**- To walk in the freedom of Christ is to walk  
in these words: “SHAPED BY LOVE, NOT  
FEAR”**



**Our Freedom Is Experienced In A  
Consciousness of Christ and His  
Righteousness , His Grace, His  
Perfect Love!**



## **#3 In Christ: In The Arena Of Personal Transformation**

**Christian Transformation Is Getting  
Accustomed to Being in Christ – Acts 17:28**

**- It doesn't occur by trying hard to be like  
Jesus, but in trusting His Life to come out  
of me as His Life!  
...it is always “Personal” – Rev 21:5**



**- It is about Jesus Christ being ENFLESHED in our person – Jo 1:14**

**...it is the “living under” life (under His controlling influence)**

**...it is the “living through” life (He is the Source)**

**...it is the “living without” life (whatever does not come from Him)**

**(examples: without demandedness/life on my terms; fearful self-absorption; heavy investments in**

**what is “passing away”; proud, critical judgment; blame)**



# **We Start the Journey of Christian Transformation Complete in Christ – Col 2:8-10**

- We are fully and perfectly saved – II Pet 1:3-4; Eph 1:3**  
**...there are no commands/directives/imperatives contrary to our new creation-ness – Col 1:19; Ro 6:10; I Jo 5:3**
- We are moving from “not I” to “but Christ” – Ga 2:20**  
**...God makes use of precipitating events – Ro 8:32; 8:28 (“all things”)**



**- There is no transformation in theory –**  
**Ja 1:24**

**...but in real life events that come  
by His “say so” – Ro 11:36; Is 45:7; Ps  
119:91**

**We Cooperate with His Operation – Ro 1:17**

**- Honesty: grace works when we are  
honest (Ps 73)**

**...we stand in the light before God –**  
**Ps 139:23-24**

**...we submit our “story” to Him –**  
**I Pet 5:6-7**



- Worship: every crisis is the call to worship – Eph 5:20; Ps 16:8; Matt 6:33
  - ...a loving attentiveness to God
  - ...we return to the “single eye” – Matt 6:22

- Listening: we tune and turn our hearts toward God – Hab 2:1; Ps 46:10
  - ...with a sense of expectancy (I Sam 3:10)
  - ...trusting in His perfect love (I Jo 4:8,18)
  - ...with a single-mindedness (Heb 11:6)



**- Responsivity: the obedience of faith –**  
**Ro 1:5; 16:26**

**...“I believe You” – Ro 10:17**

**...we are moved from theological  
awareness to operational oneness –**  
**Jo 13:17; Matt 7:24**



## **#4 In Christ: The Arena Of Interpersonal Participation**

**The “Problem” of Living Together in Community Is Twofold:**

- 1) The problem of fear (overcoming fear) – I Jo 4:18**
- 2) The problem of faith (loss of confidence in Christ for others) – II Thess 3:4-5**



**“Not I but Christ” must be translated into  
“Not I but You” – Ga 2:20**

**In Christ:**

- God made room for us in His family –  
**Jo 14:6; Eph 2:19; II Cor 5:19**
- God has accepted us – **Ro 15:7; Jo 6:37; 8:1; 14:3**
- God has been good, generous to us –  
**Eph 1:3; II Pet 1:3-4; Ps 103:10; Matt 20:15**
- God has spoken the truth in love to us  
– **Jo 3:16; Jo 17:17; 18:37; 8:31-32**
- God makes intercession for us – **Ro 8:34; Heb 7:25; Is 53:12**



**In Christ we see the truth of what it means to be God: Jo 8:19; 14:9**

- God is... hospitable, accepting, good, truthful, intercessory
- In Christ we see what it means to be the people of God – Heb 10:23-25

**In Christ, We Make Room for Strangers – Heb 13:2; I Pet 4:9; Matt 25:35**

- “Wrongness” is no grounds for God to keep His distance! – Jo 3:16
- ...God made room for us in Christ; now we make room for others – Ro 12:13



## **In Christ, We Accept One Another – Ro 15:7; Ro 12:10**

- We do not judge through the lens of our own personal convictions – Ro 14**
- We have the courage to live with imperfection because of confidence in His transformative power**
  - II Thess 3:4-5; II Cor 3:4-5**  
**...God has accepted us in Christ; now we accept one another – Ro 15:7**



## **In Christ, We are Good and Generous to One Another – I Tim 6:8; II Tim 3:17; Ro 15:14**

- We are “present” to one another – Phil 2:3**
- We give “presents” to one another – Eph 4:29**

**...God is good to us in Christ; now we are good to others – Ro 15:2; Ga 6:10**



## **In Christ, We Are Agents of Loving Truth – I Jo 5:20; Eph 4:15,25**

**- Our objective is not to charge people with a crime, but see them changed by the truth –  
Jo 8:31-36**

**- We will sit together IN LOVE under the Truth of God**

**...God is loving and truthful; In Christ, we love each other well enough to speak the truth  
– Eph 4:15**



## **In Christ, We Are Instruments of Redemption/Intercession – I Jo 3:16; I Thess 2:8**

**- “God lets us see others at fault not in  
order to judge, but that we may intercede” –  
(O. Chambers)**

**...God intercedes for us in Christ; now  
we become intercessors, agents of  
redemption for others**