

Doctrine of Positional Truth

- 1) Definition and description.
 - a) Positional Truth is a name for the spiritual union with Christ in the Church Age which occurs at the point of saving faith.
 - b) In the Greek it is represented by the preposition, ἐν (EN) plus the locative of sphere.
 - c) Examples:
 - i) John 15:2: “Every branch in Me...”
 - ii) Romans 6:11: “...in Christ Jesus.”
 - iii) Romans 16:8: “...in the Lord”
 - iv) Galatians 1:22: “...in Christ.”
 - v) Colossians. 2:7: “...In Him”
 - vi) 1 Thessalonians 1:1: “...in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...”
 - d) Positional Truth is a current blessing of CA believers (Rom. 16:3, 7-13, 22; 1 Cor. 3:1).
 - e) Our position in Christ is the work of God (1 Cor. 1:30).
 - f) Nothing can separate us from our position in Christ (Rom. 8:35-39).
 - g) All believers in this age share positional truth (Gal. 3:28, Eph. 2:13).
 - h) It is related to the mystery doctrines of the Church Age (Eph. 1:9; 3:1-7).
 - i) In some cases it is called current positional truth. In other cases it is called positional sanctification (Eph. 2:6, cp. 1 Cor. 1:2, 30; Also cp. Col 2:10-12).
 - j) Positional truth constitutes the believer a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come;” Galatians 6:15 “For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.”).
 - k) It was our Lord Jesus who first taught the new relationship which believers have with Him in this age (John 14:20 “In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”).
 - l) Illustrations of positional truth in the New Testament.
 - i) Vine and branches (John 15:1-16).
 - ii) Body (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27).
 - iii) Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-32, especially verse 30; just as the husband and the wife are one flesh, we are members of His body).
 - iv) Building (1 Peter 2:4-7)
 - m) The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the mechanic of positional truth. Position in Christ begins at salvation (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-28).
 - i) The baptism of the Holy Spirit does not refer to water baptism. Water baptism portrays positional truth, thus depicting the results of Spirit baptism (cp. Col. 2:12).
 - ii) God the Holy Spirit places every believer into union with Christ.
 - iii) Our position in Christ is the position of blessing and deliverance.
 - n) Position in Christ constitutes a new beginning, neutralizing the long-term effects of our position in Adam (1 Corinthians 15:22 “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”).
 - i) “In Adam” is the current position of every unbeliever.

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- ii) Position in Adam is the result of the imputation of Adam's original sin (AOS) to the indwelling old sin nature (OSN) at physical birth, resulting in spiritual death (Rom. 5:14-21).
 - iii) Position in Christ replaces spiritual death with eternal life and guarantees future resurrection of the body (Rom. 6:23; 1 Thess. 4:13-16).
 - o) Victory over one's OSN in Ph. 2 depends upon positive volition to the intake and application of Bible doctrine. Hence, positional truth does not guarantee the believer experiential victory over the flesh (OSN), Satan or the cosmos (world) (1 Cor. 3:1 cp. Col. 1:22-23).
 - p) It does guarantee that we share in Christ's victory at the cross, where He currently is at God's right hand, and all that He will possess in the future (Rom. 6:3; 8:17, Eph. 2:4-6).
 - q) The administration of blessings Ph.1, 2, and 3 is related to our union with Christ (Eph. 1:3, 18-23).
- 2) Blessings associated with positional truth:
- a) Eternal life (Rom. 6:23).
 - b) No condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
 - c) Imputation of +R (2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9).
 - d) Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30).
 - e) Forgiveness (Eph. 4:32).
 - f) Sealing and guarantee of a resurrection (Eph. 1:13-14).
 - g) Sonship (Gal. 3:26).
 - h) Peace (John 16:33).
 - i) Bible Doctrine (Eph. 4:20, 21).
 - j) Freedom (Gal. 2:4 cp. Gal.5:1).
 - k) Spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 1:4-7).
 - l) SG3 (Eph. 2:7, Phil. 3:14).
 - m) Spiritual enlightenment (2 Cor. 3:14).
 - n) Promises (2 Cor. 1:19-20).
 - o) Deliverance from the domain of darkness (Col. 1:13-14).
- 3) Ph.2 is the believer's only opportunity to exploit positional truth by Divine Good production (Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."). Also, this is seen in the analogy of the vine and the branches in John 15:1-11.
- a) This teaches that "much fruit" demands more than just being a branch.
 - b) The two kinds of branches represent two kinds of believers in Christ.
 - c) The productive branches are those who "abide in Christ" (a reference to filling of God the Holy Spirit, not positional truth) and who possess the indwelling of Christ (defined as Bible doctrine within; cp. John 15:4, 5, 7).
 - d) The non-productive branch is a believer who does not apply doctrine and who God therefore disciplines and denies reward (John 15:2, 6).
 - e) Spiritual maturity is the goal for the believer (cp. Col. 1:28-29).

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