



Title: Full and Free in Christ (First Corinthians #8)

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:18–4:5

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Intro: Every now and then we come across a mountain of biblical truth tucked into a single sentence. In 1 Corinthians 3:18–4:5, Paul tells the Corinthians “for all things are yours” in Christ and encourages the church to understand and live from the knowledge of what Jesus has done for them.

- Jonathan Edwards: Advice to Young Converts: “Don’t slack off seeking, striving, and praying for the very same things that we exhort unconverted persons to strive for, and a degree of which you have had in conversion. Thus pray that your eyes may be opened, that you may receive your sight, that you may know your self and be brought to God’s feet, and that you may see the glory of God and Christ, may be raised from the dead, and have the love of Christ shed abroad in your heart. Those that have most of these things still need to pray for them; for there is so much blindness and hardness and pride and death remaining that they still need to have that work of God upon them, further to enlighten and enliven them.”

I. FULL IN CHRIST (vv. 3:18-23)

A few implications of the words—“for all things are yours”

1. Salvation.

- From death (Ephesians 2:1-5)
- From sin (Romans 6:6-7)
- From God’s wrath—which is the penalty of sin (Romans 5:9)
- What should this produce in us?—Worship, Thankfulness, Humility!
- Spurgeon quote from Lectures to My Students (p.338): “*Aim at the heart. Probe the wound and touch the very quick of the soul. Spare not the sterner themes, for men must be wounded before they can be healed, and slain before they can be made alive. No man will ever put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness till he is stripped of his fig leaves, nor will he wash in the fount of mercy till he perceives his filthiness.*”

2. Forgiveness of sins.

- Colossians 2:13-15
- Psalm 103:12

3. Justification—right standing with God.

- Romans 3:21-25

4. Adoption—God is our Father.

- Romans 8:15
- Packer quote on adoption from Knowing God (p.207): “*This free gift of acquittal and peace, won for us at the cost of Calvary, is wonderful enough, in all conscience—but justification does not of itself imply any intimate or deep relationship with God the judge...But contrast this, now, with adoption. Adoption is a family idea, conceived in terms of love, and viewing God as father. In adoption, God takes us into his family*”

and fellowship—he establishes us as his children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater.”

5. Righteousness of Christ.

6. Eternal life, which is Christ.

- John 17:1-3

II. FREE IN CHRIST (vv. 4:1-5)

Understanding that we are full and free in Christ:

Destroys:

1. Envy
2. Insecurity
3. Pride

Produces:

1. Joy
2. Confidence
3. Work