



# MESSAGE NOTES

## RIGHTEOUS IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:21

James Brown

### **'Christian' or 'In Christ'?**

Christian actually means "little Christ" and was originally meant as an insult by those who opposed the early church. For that reason the word Christian only occurs twice in the Bible, this isn't how God chose to define us. How God chooses to define us, by far and away the most common term for us in the Bible is 'In Christ'. What this means for us and for our identity is that when God looks at us He sees Jesus - because Jesus has imparted His own qualities and characteristics into us.

***1 Corinthians 1:30 And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.***

Jesus has become to us our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification and our redemption. What this means is that we no longer rely on ourselves for these things.

### **Sinner or saint?**

So in Christ we have become the righteousness of God, we are now holy and blameless in His sight thanks to Jesus. Our identity in Christ is saint not sinner. You need to know this in order to live up to it, if you think you're a sinner you'll act like a sinner but if you know you're a saint you'll start to live more and more like it.

***1 Corinthians 5:7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.***

### **Justified and being sanctified**

Justification is an instantaneous change of status the moment we become a Christian from being an enemy of God to being a child of God. Sanctification however is a gradual process in which we are gradually being transformed more and more into the image of Christ. So until the work of sanctification is complete we still make mistakes, we still sin, we are still far from perfect but none of that affects our justification - our status as being holy and accepted by God.

***Hebrews 10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.***