

Approved In Christ
4239

I. Approval

A. Desired by all people

We seek approval from:

1. Father, mother
2. Teacher
3. Employer, etc.

B. If not on right foundation, we can be manipulated

II. Secure Way To Enjoy Approval

A. Finding approval from God *in Christ* (Rom. 16:10)

1. Because we are in Christ, God approves us
2. Nothing else will gain God's approval
3. To enjoy God's approval should be our first priority

III. How To Be *In Christ*

A. Sovereign act of God

1. New creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17)
2. Past is done away with
 - a. Corruption is irreversible
 - b. Old man must be crucified

B. Identification

The *cross* is a 2-way identification

1. Jesus identified with our sin and guilt
2. We identify ourselves with Jesus
 - a. When He died, I died (Gal. 2:19–20)
 - b. Buried with Him in baptism (Col. 2:12)
 - c. Alive, resurrected and enthroned with Christ (Eph. 2:4–6)

C. How to remain in Christ

By *obedience* we abide (John 15:9–10)

1. In small things and great things
2. Know difference between important and unimportant

D. Follow the pattern of Jesus

1. Never take initiative out of God's hands (John 5:19)
2. We can do nothing of ourselves
3. Don't do more than God asks
4. What God the Father gives is decisive (John 10:29)

E. Keep Jesus head (Eph. 1:22)

1. *Jesus* is to be *head* and *initiator* of everything in the Church
2. Cross misplaced
3. Jesus displaced
4. Are we prepared to make Him head?

Application: Make a *decision* to give the *initiative* back to *God*.