

BUT ONLY THOSE IN CHRIST

By Rick McKinney, April, 2002

Many good and decent people do offer and accept apologies, but only those in Christ are able to forgive even their enemies (Matt. 5:43-47 and 6: 12-15).

Many good and decent people do experience happiness and laughter, but only those in Christ are able to experience joy even in the midst of suffering (James 1: 2-4).

Many good and decent people accept their strengths and weaknesses, but only those in Christ are able to humbly rely on a powerful strength of Christ within and without them when all they seem to have are weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

Many good and decent people do change their lives around, but only those in Christ are able to experience the gratitude of being redeemed from the bondage of self-absorption and an empty way of life (1 Pet. 1:14-23).

Many good and decent people face death with acceptance, but only those in Christ are able to have a solid hope that their bodies will be resurrected in the newness of everlasting life (1 Cor. 15:40-44).

Many good and decent people serve the God they know in obedience and reverential fear, but only those in Christ are able to serve the God they know in love, humility, peace, compassion, and personal gratitude (Col. 3:12-17).

Many good and decent people worship the God they know in various ways and see their highest calling as obedient servants to God, but only those in Christ are able to worship the God they know in and with the Holy Spirit and see their highest calling as being united to Him as a bride to her beloved, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Eph. 5:25-27).

Many good and decent people are good and decent, but only those in Christ are able to become holy and to wholly belong to their beloved Lord and Savior (1 Pet. 1:5-11).