

POSITION AND PRACTICE

Reference: Miscellaneous Scripture

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There are two specific words that are essential to understanding just *who we are* and just *what we have* as Christians. Those two words are **position** and **practice**.

The Christian's position is the same as his spiritual _____ and the Christian's practice is the same as his spiritual _____.

Definition: The Christian's **position** is the same as his permanent spiritual **standing** (and where is he standing?) _____. That means a Christian's position is who he _____ and what he _____ because he's in Christ. Being in Christ is our post salvation identification. References: **Philippians 1:1; Romans 8:1; I Peter 5:14** (see screen)

QUESTION: How is someone positioned in Christ?

ANSWER: We are positioned in Christ through Holy Spirit _____ at our salvation.

Reference: **Galatians 3:27-28; I Corinthians 12:13** (see screen)

Definition: The Christian's **practice** is his present personal state of _____. Our practice is what we _____ or what we _____ on an experiential basis. Our practice is how we behave on a day-to-day basis.

Our Christian position is:	Our Christian practice is:
_____	_____
_____ - _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
the _____ in all Christians	_____ from all Christians

Our position in Christ is a doctrine principle and our personal practice is (or should be) based on overriding doctrinal principles and rules.

The basic order in some New Testament books is position and then practice – doctrine and then duty.

Example: **Ephesians** – Chapters _____ are position/doctrine then chapters _____ are practice/personal actions or duty.

Reference: **Ephesians 4:1** (see screen)

Ephesians 4:1 is the transitional statement or the hinge between **Ephesians chapters 1-3** and **Ephesians 4-6**.

Example of a verse that contains both the injunction to practice something and the doctrine or positional basis for that injunction:
Reference: **Ephesians 4:32** (see screen)

QUESTION: How do we know if a particular biblical passage is a reference to our spiritual position or to our spiritual practice?

ANSWER:

Positional passages use statements such as “*in Christ*” or “*in Him*” or “*in Christ Jesus*” or “*in the beloved*” (where Christ is the beloved).

Practical passages describe what we should do or shouldn’t do.

References: **Hebrews 10:14**; **I Corinthians 1:2** (see screen)

This statement from **Hebrews** is a _____ statement.

Reference: **Matthew 5:48** (see screen)

This statement from **Matthew** is a _____ statement.

Position or Practice Exercise:

Reference: **Colossians 3:1-3** (see screen)

verse one, “*If then you were raised with Christ* (_____),
seek those things which are above (_____), *where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God* (_____).”

verse two, *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth* (_____).”

verse three, *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God*.
(_____).”

The New Testament goes on to teach that although position-ally we are in Christ, Christ is also in us.

Reference: **Colossians 1:27** (see screen)

Understanding position and practice can help us better understand sometimes misunderstood biblical passages.

Reference: **II Corinthians 5:17** (see screen)

PRINCIPLE:

As a Christian we are to put our spiritual position into spiritual practice.
In a progressive sense we should make our practice more and more like our position, matching our practice to our spiritual position.
In essence we are to _____ what we already _____.

References: **I Timothy 1:15, 13**; **Romans 1:7** (see screen)

Three Helpful Steps in Practicing Our Position:

ONE: _____ all that our _____ in Christ includes.
(See supplement –Practicing Our Position)

TWO: _____ on what we know to be _____ about our position and
_____ our _____.

THREE: _____ to practice our position and don’t stop!