

**Men's Advance
Providence OPC
Outline
March 7-8, 2008
R. Gamble**

Introductions:

Friday evening Topic: Union with Christ

I. God is Holy

II. The nature of our union with Christ

- A. All saints are united to Christ
- B. The earthly fruits of our union with Christ

III. Our union with Christ

- A. Methodology
- B. Characteristics of our union with Christ
- C. The nature and significance of our union with Christ
- D. Preliminary conclusion

IV. Our union with Christ in his and our resurrection

- A. Concerning "first fruits" *I Cor. 15:20ff.*
- B. Concerning "first born" *Col. 1: 15,18.*

-Q & A

Saturday morning (talk #2).

I. Union with Christ and the Christian life: our personal history

- A. Meaning and hope
- B. Holiness and union with Christ
- C. Church life and union with Christ
- D. From history

II. The love of God and the believer

- A. In the Old Testament
- B. In the New Testament: John
- C. In the New Testament: Paul
- D. Meaning of *James 4:5*

III. The issue of lordship. *Romans 6:1-13.* To sin or to righteousness? "Vital" union.

- A. Introduction
- B. Central thesis
- C. The union is "vital"
- D. Baptism/death
- E. Break with Sin: *Romans 6: 6-10*
- F. The grammatically parallel expressions "to sin"; and "to God." *Romans 6:6-11*
- G. Connection to *Romans 6: 10-11*
- H. Summary and advance: *Rom. 6:12-14*
- I. The continuing antithesis: *Rom. 6:15-23.*
- J. Summary of the Christian life: *Rom. 6:12-13*

-Q & A

Saturday morning (talk #3) Union with Christ and the believer's new identity

I. The problem of the Pauline imperative/indicative.

- A. The controlling place of the resurrection as the motif of the Christian life. Paul's thesis: "Become in Christ what you are in Christ"
- B. Sanctification is a gift of God and task of believer.
- C. Backdrop: Imperative of Jewish past? Indicative inconsistent?
- D. The irreversibility and inseparability of the imperative and indicative. Indicative grounds the imperative.
- E. Solution and central thesis. *Phil. 2: 12f.* Paul not a moralist!
Paul not Antinomian!

II. The goal/pattern of sanctification

- A. Pattern #1. God himself is the pattern of this holiness.
- B. Pattern #2. The preceptive will of God [or Law of God] as the pattern
- C. Pattern #3. Christ Himself as the pattern

III. Suffering and the Christian life

- A. The question: what is distinguishing quality of resurrection life?
- B. Paul's view of suffering and the Christian life. *2 Cor. 4:7-12; Phil. 3:7ff.*
- C. Peter's view of suffering and the Christian life

IV. Preliminary conclusions: the imperative and indicative

- A. Foundation is in the uniqueness of Christ's death
- B. Angle is missiological
- C. Ecclesiastical impact

-Q & A

Saturday afternoon Final talk

I. Translating the indicative and imperative into our lives.

- A. We need a change of identity
- B. We need to learn to read the times
- C. This teaching is not new!

II. Our new identities worked out: analysis of *Rev. 7: 9-17.*

- A. Who are these? *7: 13,14*
- B. Focus on their size: they are a great multitude
- C. We are in this crowd and we and they shall not hunger

III. Our new identities worked out: analysis of *John 14: 25-27.*

- A. God is a God of peace
- B. The God of peace is our God

IV. Our new identities worked out: *Math. 5:6; 16:24; Mark 10:45.*

-Q & A

Conclusions