

Hebrews 3:12-14

Partakers With Christ

What does it mean to be a partaker with Christ? How are we to understand those words? There is NOTHING in all of life more important than a correct understanding of this, for to be wrong on your connection to Christ is to be wrong about your eternal destiny. We began this discussion last week when we considered what the substance of our faith actually is, and will continue it next week as we think about what we are given by this participation... but we need to consider first just HOW we are connected, what is implied and inferred in the union we have been given with Him and what it means for our eternal hope.

I. FROM HIM –

- a. He is our very life –

Colossians 3.1-4

We have nothing apart from Him.

- b. He was a partaker of our human nature

Hebrews 2.14

we are partakers of His Divine nature - He has communicated His Spirit to us

- c. We are of His flesh and of His bones –

Ephesians 5.30

actually mingled with Him

- d. This is something that has been given to us, it is in no way a reward of our nature. It is the imputation and impartation of a completely NEW nature. We have been MADE partakers of Christ. This is not ours by right of nature, but by right of purchase. We have been bought and have been united with Him and He becomes our source for everything.

II. LIKE HIM

Our very natures have been changed

- a. The word here is confidence, the greek is hypostasis - it is the same word from which we derive the hypostatic union. The substantive or complete mingling of Jesus' divine nature and His human nature without the corruption of either.
 $100\% + 100\% = 100\%$
- b. In Human things the word usually denotes actions rather than natures, however, our actions are expressions of our nature. They are born of who and what we are, our actions change as our nature is changed.
- c. This union makes us a new creature, we have a new beginning, a new being has been made. Not just altered, but actually radically new. Born anew, born again.

Galatians 4.19
2Corinthians 5.17

- d. This union is our very hope of the glory promised

Colossians 1.27

III. WITH HIM

This speaks to abiding in Him.

- a. Jesus likened it to the vine and branch –

John 15.5

- b. Paul determines that Christ is everything, is all, in all

Colossians 3.11

- c. and then goes on to command that out of that reality our actions demonstrate the truth of who and what we are.

Colossians 3.12-17

- d. The root bears the fruit, it is not the other way round.

Romans 11.17-18

- e. All of our best, and surest proofs of salvation are mere expressions of that fruit/root relationship

Galatians 5.22-23

- f. Similarly, the expressions that demonstrate depravity are also evidence of a root/fruit relationship, but being a different root, we see different fruit.

Galatians 5.19-21

- g. All of this is born out of the fact that as new creatures we have been ingrafted into the root, Christ. And it is that drawing of life from a different root that alters the very nature of the branch. We have been made LIKE Him

Ephesians 4.15-16

- h. Remaining firmly connected to Him is the ground of your confidence, but also the proof of your substance.

Colossians 2.18-19

- i. And remember that confidence and substance are the same word, a powerful word that denotes both our natures, and our actions. For as Paul also points out, the old flesh nature lusts against (hates) the new spiritual nature, and the new hates the old...

Galatians 5.16-18

Partakers with Christ means
united with Christ...

Of Him...

With Him...

Like Him.