

Holiness: Our Union With Christ

Union describes the way we are related to Christ in salvation

- Ephesians 1.3
- Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
- Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Col 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:
- We live in Christ: Galatians 2.20
- We die in Christ: Revelation 14.13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.
- We are seated with Him, crucified with Him, buried with Him, raised with Him, and triumph in Him

- Jesus prayed for this, Joh 17:26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.
- And this—the fact of union with Christ—is our hope of future glory. Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

The union isn't physical, but it is real

- It is like a vine and branches, John 15
- It is like a marriage, Ephesians 5
- It is like a body, Colossians 1
- It is how we partake of His divine nature, I Peter 1.4
- And it is possible because God came to earth in the Person of Jesus Christ, not because we somehow got transported to Heaven

The implications of union on holiness

1. The pursuit of holiness is the pursuit of Christlikeness.
 - A. 1Cor. 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
 - B. Our goal should be to think, talk, and act, just like Christ.
2. Justification produces sanctification
 - A. 1Cor. 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
 - B. Christ produces BOTH things in us.

3. The pursuit of holiness is totally consistent with our existence as believers: it is “who we are.”

A. Romans 6.3-4. In Him, we are dead to sin and alive to righteousness

B. II Corinthians 5.14-18. In Him, we are new creations

The Bible appeals to our conduct on the basis of union

1. I Corinthians 6.12-20. God appeals to sexual purity on the basis of union
2. II Corinthians 5.20; Ephesians 2.17. Our evangelism is “in Christ”
3. I Thessalonians 5.18; the basis of gratitude is “in Christ”
4. II Timothy 2.1 Our strength is “in Christ.”