

Living in Union with Christ

Session #3 - Union With the Present, Loving Lord Jesus Christ

**All Saints Church
2024-02-25**

<https://georgekong.me/asc/living-in-union-with-christ.zip>

introductory question

When you think about God's being personally present with you and living within you, is your mental image or concept usually of God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, or all three?

series overview

- a follow-on to the Union with Christ class
- focus on our experience of knowing and loving God
- survey
- affective
- sharing personal stories

you are here

Sessions

- 1) Living in the Presence of God - Psalm 139, Psalm 1, proactivity, "bring it on"
- 2) Taste and See - The Affections and Loving God - Edwards, Piper, Smith
- 3) Union With the Present, Loving Lord Jesus Christ**
- 4) Your Sanctification Story in Christ
- 5) Your Calling in Christ and Christ in Your Calling
- 6) United with Christ in His Suffering and in Our Suffering
- 7) United with Each Other Through Christ

John 14 - introduction

- part of the "upper-room discourse," also known as Jesus' "farewell discourse"
- Jesus had just told his disciples that he was going to be betrayed and he had just said "where I am going you cannot come."
- He had foretold that Peter would deny him, implying that persecution was about to fall on them, so they would have been very apprehensive, and Jesus recognizes those fears and speaks to them.
- A central theme of this chapter is mutual indwelling - the indwelling of the persons of the Trinity with each other ("I am in the Father and the Father is in me") and with us ("I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you").
- As you hear the chapter read, be on the lookout for that, as well as for affective language - language that speaks to the emotions.

John 14

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”

John 14

12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

John 14

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

John 14 - mutual presence and indwelling

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John 14 - affective language

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John 14 and your affections

- How did you feel as you listened to John 14?
- The primary audience for this chapter is the disciples in the upper room, but it's meant for more than just them - "whoever believes in me", "whoever has my commandments and keeps them", "If anyone loves me"
- As we saw with Psalm 139 in the last two sessions, the presence of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit is not detached or business-like, it's personal and loving.
- John 14 is another great text to memorize and meditate on, letting the words of Christ develop warmth in your heart for him as you hear him express his love for you and acknowledge your feelings and speak to your heart. When things are difficult, hear the Lord Jesus say to you, "Let not your heart be troubled." When you think about your future, hear him say, "I go to prepare a place for you ... I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." When you feel alone, hear him say, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

review - union with Christ / identity in Christ

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)

... For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Col 3:2-4)

... I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ... (Phil 3:7-11)

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Phil 1:21)

- These texts use starkly radical language that can be very challenging to our natural inclinations. Does the Lord Jesus' understanding of us and love for us, as expressed in John 14, make it easier for you to receive and embrace these ideas?

our stories

My Story

- lecture by Stuart Briscoe on Phil 1:21 - "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"
<https://georgekong.me/briscoe/briscoe.zip>
(seventh lecture, "The Harder They Hit")
- initially very challenging - Christ as intrusion, Christ as "salvation concept"
- Bible texts like John 14 helped me feel the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and feel his trustworthiness to entrust my identity and my life story to him.

Your Stories

- Share an event, situation, conversation, Bible text, or something else that has affected how you feel about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Share something that has helped you understand your identity in Christ.

for further study

- Sinclair Ferguson, *Preaching the Whole Christ* - inspiring lecture, addressed to preachers but profitable for anyone as we think about the effect our life and conversation has on others
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9yRL4TR7Vk>
- J. C. Ryle, *Holiness* - Ryle was an evangelical bishop in the Church of England in 1800s. The book is a collection of 20 independent articles, all of which are worth reading but two are especially relevant to this class session: "Lovest Thou Me?" and "Christ Is All."
https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/ryle/Holiness_-_J_C_Ryle.pdf