

CHURCH OF GOD MOUNT VERNON

UNITED BY HIM, WITH HIM, OR IN HIM

Philippians 3:9



ANCHOR TEXT

“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

— **Philippians 3:9 (KJV)**

INTRODUCTION

There is only one way of being united to Christ that satisfies God — not by nearness to Him, but by faith and communion in Him. This message looks at ways men are drawn near Christ while trusting in something other than Him.

1



BY HIM

Common Cause

2



WITH HIM

Common Company

3



IN HIM

Communion



United By Him

Common Cause

Luke 23:12 • Matthew 26:14–16



Common Cause, Not Common Faith



Pilate & Herod

Enemies — yet “made friends together” the day they judged Christ (Luke 23:12). Their trust was in their own authority and position, not in Him.



Judas & the Chief Priests

“What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you?” They “covenanted... for thirty pieces of silver” (Matthew 26:14–16). Their confidence was in the law they used against Him — not in the Christ who fulfilled it.

None of the four — Herod, Pilate, the chief priests, Judas — ever placed faith in Christ. Their only bond was opposition to Him.

“You can be united by Jesus — for the wrong cause.”

II

United With Him

Common Company — and Its Counterfeit

The Story of Judas



The Nearest Seat, the Furthest Heart



Chosen, Sent, Empowered

One of the Twelve — sent out with power to preach and heal (Matthew 10:1–4).



At the Table, Already Sold

He struck his deal for silver even as he sat and ate with Christ (Matthew 26:23; John 13:18; Psalm 41:9).



Satan Entered Him

Despite three years at Christ's side (Luke 22:3; John 6:70–71) — nearness never became faith.



The Kiss

False intimacy used as the instrument of betrayal (Matthew 26:49–50).

Two Trees, One Choice



Christ's Own Verdict

“The son of perdition” (John 17:12) — he went “to his own place” (Acts 1:25).

Two trees stood before Judas that week. He chose the wrong one: “he went and hanged himself” (Matthew 27:5), in a field bought with “the reward of iniquity” (Acts 1:18) — dying still holding onto the very thing he trusted instead of Christ.

He should have taken up his cross instead (Luke 9:23), hung his love of money there, and let it die so he could live by faith in Him.

“Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name... and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me.”

— Matthew 7:22–23

Of the three kinds of nearness, this one is the most dangerous — because it looks the most like faith.



United In Him

Communion — One Heart, Then One Body



One Heart With Christ First

by faith, not by law-keeping



Philippians 3:9 again — not “mine own righteousness, which is of the law,” but “that which is through the faith of Christ.”

Galatians 2:20 — “I am crucified with Christ” — the very verse Judas refused to live, and the very faith Herod, Pilate, and the priests never had.

Further reading: John 15:4–5 • Colossians 1:27 • Ephesians 3:17–19

One Body With One Another

one heart with Christ extends outward



John 17:21–23 • Ephesians 2:14–16 • Galatians 3:28

Unity with other believers grows out of union with Christ — it never replaces it. The first two are only common: shared cause, shared company. The third is communion — common union — one heart with Christ Himself, and one body with all who are His.

Conclusion

Judas is a sharper warning than Pilate and Herod could ever be. Their nearness was only common cause from a distance. His nearness went all the way to the communion table — and even that wasn't enough to reach his heart.

Who	Trusted In	Result
Pilate & Herod	Their own crown and authority	United together
Judas	His silver	United with the Jewish leaders
Neither	—	<i>United in Him</i>

Reaching the communion table and your heart being in communion with Jesus are two different things. Close, but not close enough.

Which describes you?

Controversy about Him

Company with Him

Faith in Him

“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

— **Philippians 3:9**