

I. Mystical Union With Christ

A. Romans 6:5-11 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

1. "Prior to the union of Christ on the condition of faith, a person could not say, "I died with Christ." Immediately, upon union with Christ a person can say, "I died with Christ." The history of the cross became his history, not in the experiential sense, but by identification so that he received full credit for that death."

Forlines, F. L. (2001). *The Quest for Truth: Theology for Postmodern World* (pp. 194–195). Randall House Publications; Worldwide Ministries.

B. 2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

1. Upon this spiritual and mystical union, rests the federal and legal union between Christ and his people. Because they are spiritually, vitally, eternally, and mystically one with him, his merit is imputable to them, and their demerit is imputable to him. The imputation of Christ's righteousness supposes a union with him. It could not be imputed to an unbeliever, because he is not united with Christ by faith. Forlines, F. L. (2001). *The Quest for Truth: Theology for Postmodern World* (p. 194). Randall House Publications; Worldwide Ministries.

C. 1 Corinthians 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. (ESV)

II. James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

A. There are three elements to consider here

1. Submit
2. Resist
3. Flee

a) Each of these verbs in the Greek text are in present active tense.

B. James 3:1-12 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. (ESV)

1. In the narrative of Christ's temptation in the wilderness by Satan we see this embodied.

- a) Both the idea of resisting the devil, and that Jesus resisted by speaking out the truth the Word of God.
- 2. We must resist the devil in speaking the truth.
 - a) The most formative voice that you can ever hear is your own voice declaring what God thinks about you, how he feels about you, and what He has accomplished in you by Christ.
 - b) What if your emotional state right now is in many ways the fruit of your mindset five years ago?
 - c) The way forward is in loving God with all of your mind and heart- and leading yourself into submission to God as you resist the devil by speaking the truth about how God thinks and feels toward you.