

Union with Christ

Dr. Sinclair Ferguson

October 26, 2025

Part 2: “Getting Into Christ”

Review

The Apostle Paul most often referred to believers as those who are “in Christ.” (Rom 8:1; 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 3:26 etc.). It is presupposed in everything he says about living the Christian life.

*“Those who are **in Christ** live life out of the resources that are ours because from eternity to eternity we are united to our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Dr. Sinclair Ferguson*

Watch video

In the third chapter of his letter to the Philippians Paul provides clues regarding his apprehension of the truth of his union with Christ.

- Before his conversion, Saul/Paul thought he could outdo anyone who claimed they had reason to boast before God. His pedigree? Impeccable. Performance? Outstanding (Phil 3:4). But what he lacked was a consciousness of his sin.
- Then, the corrupt nature of his heart was revealed through his encounter with Stephen, who had something that he didn’t (Acts 6:8-10, Rom 7:7-11)
- In Stephen, Paul encountered Jesus. He met someone who was united with Christ, and saw the very things he would later write about in Philippians chapter 3 (Acts 7:54-60; Rom 8:29)
- Then later, in that moment of coming to faith on the Damascus Road, this understanding of union with Christ became crystal clear (Acts 9:1-5)
- Paul committed to working that out in the whole of his Christian life (Phil 3:12-14)

What difference does all this make in our lives as Christians?

- A new spiritual accountancy: Everything else is loss (Phil 3:7)
- A Holy dissatisfaction: Wanting to know more (Phil 3:10-11)
- A wonderful simplicity: This one thing I do (Ps 27:4; Phil 3:13)

“We pursue the knowledge of Christ in a thousand ways, and that makes all the difference to the whole of our lives. That’s what it means to come to union with Christ.” – Dr. Sinclair Ferguson