

Union with Christ

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Review

Becoming a Christian is bigger than we ever anticipated because, at conversion, we were believing not only on Christ but into Christ, into union and communion with Him. And now, every spiritual blessing is ours in Christ (Eph 1:3)

Part 11: The Vine & The Branches

At the beginning, Jesus reminded His followers that the heart of their Christian lives in the future is the reality that they are united to Him. In John chapter 15 He uses a picture of a vine and branches to communicate four primary principles:

1. This union is the source of all our fruitfulness (Jn 15:4)

- As we draw on the significance of this union, our fruitfulness grows
- Don't focus on fruit-bearing, but on our union and communion with Christ. The fruit will look after itself

"What characterizes the Christian is that they learn to do the supernatural things naturally."

- William Still

2. This union involves the pruning of the Father (Jn 15:2)

- The Christian who is never pruned is the Christian who will never grow
- We often don't understand the pruning while it is happening, but someday we will

"God's providences are like Hebrew words, they can only be read backwards." - Dr. Sinclair Ferguson

3. This union is nurtured and nourished by the Word (Jn 15:7; See also Col 3:16)

- The way to grow strong in our union with Christ is to be fed on His Word (Jn 17:17)
- Resist the temptation towards pragmatism and let the Word do the work (2 Tim 3:15; Heb 4:12-13)

4. The most obvious fruit of this union is love (Jn 15:8-12. See also Jn 13:34-35)

- The ultimate fruit is becoming more and more like Jesus