

Union with Christ

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Review

"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)

Watch video (pause at 3:53)

The doctrine of Union with Christ is pervasive throughout Paul's letters, but many of us underestimate its importance.

- Paul got his first real hint of it on the Damascus Road. He learned that Jesus could not be separated from those who are His (Acts 9:4-5)
- It's at the core of his letter to the Ephesians (Eph 1:3)
- The Dimensions of this union:
 - It is rooted in eternity (Eph 4:15)
 - It comes to fruition in the incarnation (Jn 1:14; Heb 4:14-16)
 - It becomes personal when we believe into Christ (2 Cor 5:17)
- It's how we become part of the New Creation
 - Being reconciled to God, we are new creature in Christ (2 Cor 5:21)
 - Having stepped out into a whole new world (2 Cor 5:6-9)

Part 7: Baptized into Christ

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 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." (Rom 6:1-5)

Watch video

To know who we are as Christians, we must have some sense of the privilege of being united to the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 6:1-5 (above) contains a major key to Paul's teaching.

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Chapter 5 ends with this statement: “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.” Paul then begins chapter 6 by anticipating the objection to this statement...

He begins with an emotional response (Rom 6:1-2)

- The Gospel should transform our minds to such an extent that it also transforms our emotions

Then goes on to give a theological explanation (Rom 6:3-5)

- Baptism tells us who we are. Not only forgiven but also entering into union with Him
- It's the Gospel preached in visible signs
 - We have died in the death of Christ to the dominion of sin
 - We've been raised in the resurrection, by the power of God, to walk in newness of life
- If that's who we are, then that's how we should live

“It is illogical to think that if you've been baptized into the righteousness of Jesus Christ that you would live as though you were still dominated by the world of sinfulness.” – Dr. Sinclair Ferguson