

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 9: Hidden in Christ

This begins a 2-part series in Colossians 3:1-17, focused this week on verses 1-4. The background: False teaching was impacting the church at Colossae, implying that the Gospel is a good start that must be accompanied by extra rules and techniques (Col 2:18-23)

- The genuinely converted can fail to grasp the fullness that is already theirs in Christ, leaving them vulnerable to supplements

Read Galatians 3:1 - 4 and consider

- “Hidden with Christ” is about identity before it’s about behavior
- Our union stretches from His cross to His throne to His return
 - Not just a “positional truth” but the deepest reality of our life, even when we can’t see it or don’t feel it
 - Our truest life is presently concealed, but will be revealed at Christ’s appearing
- Our great comfort is that Jesus will not appear without His people
 - The Son of God *“regards Himself as in a certain sense imperfect unless He is joined to us.”* – John Calvin (see also Eph 1:22-23)
- Our new identity leads to a new mentality, and our affections follow
 - We import old instincts into the Christian life, so we need Scripture to “grind away” our thinking until our reflexes change
 - Enjoyment of our union is tied directly to our grasp of the glory of Christ Himself (Col 1:15-20)