



Introduction

- Union with Christ answers how Christ's saving benefits become ours.
- Key biblical language: "in Christ," "in Him," "with Christ."
- Salvation is not simply for Christ but in Christ.

Definition

- **Union with Christ:** A bond with Christ that begins at salvation and continues eternally.
- Initiated by the Holy Spirit through faith.
- Two main aspects: **Legal (Federal/Representative)** and **Spiritual (Mystical/Vital)**.

Legal Union with Christ

Covenant Head

- Adam and Christ are federal representatives (Rom. 5:12–21; 1 Cor. 15:22).
- In Adam: condemnation and death.
- In Christ: justification and life.
- Christ's **active obedience** (fulfilling the law) is imputed to believers.

Covenant Substitute

- Christ's **passive obedience** (death on the cross) satisfies divine justice.
- Penal substitutionary atonement: Christ bears our punishment.
- OT sacrifices prefigured Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (Heb. 10:11–14).

Covenant Union

- Christ's actions are considered our actions (Rom. 6:1–5).
- Justification and sanctification are applied because we are united to Christ.
- Union allows God to justify the ungodly justly.



Mystical Union with Christ

- A deeper, spiritual, life-giving, and mysterious bond with Christ.
- Termed “mystical” because it surpasses understanding (Eph. 5:32).

Organic Union

- Metaphors: vine and branches, head and body (John 15:4–5).
- Union sustains fruitfulness and Christian living.

Life-Giving Union

- Believers live by Christ’s indwelling life (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:9–11).
- The Spirit mediates Christ’s life to us.

Spiritual Union

- The Holy Spirit brings and sustains union (John 14:15–17).
- New Covenant distinction: the Spirit now **indwells** believers.

Reciprocal Union

- We respond to Christ in faith because He first unites us to Himself.
- Regeneration precedes faith (Eph. 3:16–17).

Personal and Corporate Union

- Personal: Every believer is individually united to Christ (Gal. 2:16).
- Corporate: All believers are united together in Christ (Eph. 1:22–23).

Transforming Union

- Union with Christ guarantees sanctification (John 15:1–2; Rom. 6:5; Phil. 3:8–11).
- No sanctification = no true union.

Characteristics of Union with Christ

- Christ sustains all creation (Col. 1:15–17).
- Distinct from pantheism or panentheism.
- Incarnation: Christ became man to unite us to Himself.



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- Baptism and the Lord's Supper symbolize and confirm union but do not create it.
 - Baptism: sign of participation in Christ's death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3–4).
 - Lord's Supper: ongoing participation in Christ's death (1 Cor. 10:16).

Conclusion: Ephesians 1:3–14

- All spiritual blessings are found **in Christ**.
- Chosen, redeemed, adopted, sealed—all benefits come through union with Christ.
- Union with Christ is central to understanding and living out salvation.