

# The Power of Union with Christ

From a spiritual perspective

March 16th

## **INTRO.**

As a believer – our walk of faith – should be more than just an intellectual exercise of biblical truth ... It should be more than just trying our best to live out biblical principles on a daily basis ... Our faith walk – or our journey of faith – is truly about sharing our very life with Christ ... We ought to be sharing our life with Jesus on a daily basis.

There is a mystery that we find in Scripture and this mystery can be identified in the follow question? ... What does it mean to be “In Christ?” ... Is being “in Christ” the same as being in “union with Christ?” ... In order to effectively walk out our journey of faith with Him – we must first fully understand the ramifications and distinction between – being “in Christ” and being “in union with Christ”.

## **What does it Mean to be In Christ**

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 New King James Version**

Therefore, - - **if anyone is in Christ**, - - he is a new creation; - old things have passed away; - behold, - all things have become new.

### **Being in Christ speaks of Positioning and Location**

When the Bible speaks of being in Christ, - it is not merely describing an association or belief ... It is declaring a positional reality that transforms our standing before God. ... Our position in Christ – is foundational – to fully understanding our identity – our security – and our authority as believers ... Being in Christ means that our past has been erased ... Our true identity has been changed ... We are now a Kainos being ... Our future has been secured for all eternity.

### **Ephesians 2:6 New Living Translation**

For HE raised us from the dead - along with Christ - - **and seated us with Him** - - **in the heavenly realms** - - because we are united with Christ Jesus.

This means we now operate from a position of victory and not defeat ... This means we now operate from a position of complete spiritual authority ... This now means we live our life from a heavenly perspective – and not from these worldly distractions ... Being in Christ means our position is already secured above our struggles, trials, and spiritual battles. ... We fight from a position of victory – not for victory! ... We are more than overcomers!

### **Positioning brings a New Identity**

#### **Galatians 3:26 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition**

For in Christ Jesus - - you are all sons of God through faith.

This now identifies us and places us into a new family – the family of God ... We are now partakers of all the benefits that come along with sonship ... We are joint heirs with Christ – now in this present realm.

### **Positioning brings Security and Freedom**

#### **Romans 8:1 Amplified Bible**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation [no guilty verdict, no punishment] for those who are in Christ Jesus [who believe in Him as personal Lord and Savior].

**No Condemnation** – Because we are in Christ, we are not under God's judgment for sin. ... Our sins have been fully paid for by Jesus, so we are no longer guilty in God's sight.

**A New Position** – The phrase "those who are in Christ Jesus" refers to believers who have placed their faith in Him. ... Being in Christ means that our identity and standing before God are based on what Christ has done, not our past nor present failures.

**Security and Grace** – Since there is no condemnation, we are fully accepted, forgiven, and secure in Christ. ... This means we don't have to live in fear of judgment but can walk in confidence and freedom.

## **What does it Mean to be In Union with Christ?**

### **John 15:4-5 New Matthew Bible**

Abide in me, - - and let me abide in you. ... As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, - unless it abides in the vine, - - no more can you - unless you abide in me. ... 5 I am the vine and you are the branches. ... He who abides in me, - and I in him, - - the same brings forth much fruit. ... For without Me - you can do nothing.

Union with Christ speaks of a living connection with Him ... Union is not a legal position – as some would view a marriage contract ... Union goes far beyond a legal contract ... Union involves a living – breathing engagement with Christ ... Union involves drawing your very being and essence from Him ... He is our source of life ... He is our empowerment and strength for our daily walk ... These must no longer be theological concepts – but an ingrained belief that will radically impact our lifestyle. ... There can be no sonship without union.

### **Acts 17:28 Amplified Bible**

For in Him - - we live - - and move - - and exist [that is, in Him we actually have our being], ... as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’

## **Union speaks to Intimacy**

### **1 Corinthians 6:17 GOD’S WORD Translation**

However, - the person who unites himself with the Lord - - becomes one spirit with Him.

This verse reveals the profound truth – that our spirit is united with Christ's Spirit ... This union is a mingling of our spirit with His Spirit whereby it creates oneness ... This union is not a theological concept – but a spiritual reality. ... This union speaks to our level of intimacy with Christ – demonstrating that we are inseparable from Him – which leads to our next point.

## **Union speaks to Image / Imitation**

### **Romans 8:29 Good News Translation**

Those whom God had already chosen - HE also set apart to become like His Son, - so that the Son would be the first among many believers.

This text highlights that union with Christ – is not only about a relational connection but also about transformation. ... We have been predestined to become like Christ - - to reflect His image, - - to share in His divine nature, - - and to participate in His glory. ... Our identity is fully bound up in Christ – to the place where we are transformed into His image ... When people look at us – they see Jesus ... The more we meditate upon this truth – the more we take on His character and reflect His life. ... Being transformed into His image – isn't just a theological concept but a spiritual reality ... This union will transform us to the place that we will look like – talk like – and act – just like Jesus did.

### **TAKE AWAY**

If you are in Christ – you are a new, Kainos being ... Because of your position – you have been granted power – and divine authority ... You have been justified – which brings forgiveness and freedom ... But the question remains - - Are you living in the fullness of your union with Christ? ... Are you drawing your power – strength and wisdom from Him ... Is your very life wrapped up in Him and Him alone? ... Is your union so intimate whereby you are literally being transformed into His image?

### **How do you deepen your intimacy with Christ?**

#### **1 Timothy 4:15 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition**

Practice and cultivate and **meditate upon** - these duties; *{Union / Oneness}* - throw yourself wholly into them [as your ministry], - so that your progress may be evident to everybody.