

# Union or Invocation: Understanding “In,” “Knew,” and “Know” as Marriage Terms with Yeshua

## Introduction

In the spiritual economy of the Kingdom of God, there is a marked difference between **being in Christ** and simply **invoking His name**. Many calls upon Jesus (Yeshua) in word, but few enter the fullness of **covenantal union** with Him. The Scriptures reveal that salvation is not merely a transactional confession—it is a covenantal marriage between the Bride (the Church) and the Bridegroom (Yeshua). To understand this, we must explore three key concepts: being **"in" Christ**, having **"known"** Him (past tense), and growing in the present-tense relationship of **"knowing"** Him. These are not just theological terms—they are deeply personal and relational, rooted in the divine love story between Christ and His people.

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## 1. “In” Yeshua: Covenant Union and Identity

### A Spiritual Position of Union

The word **"in"** throughout the New Testament describes a believer’s **spiritual location—in Christ**. This is not symbolic, but **covenantal and mystical**. To be in Christ is to be united with Him as a bride is to a husband, becoming **“one”** (Ephesians 5:31–32). This union brings transformation, identity, and access to the Father.

### Key Scriptures:

- *“If anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- *“For you died, and your life is now hidden **with Christ** in God.”* (Colossians 3:3)
- *“There is now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**.”* (Romans 8:1)

### Marriage Implication:

Being **“in”** Yeshua is the **result of covenantal union**, just as a bride enters a new household and identity. She no longer belongs to herself; she is in her husband, under his name, protection, and authority. So too, the Church is **in Christ**, carrying His name and His nature.

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## 2. Invoking the Name: Calling Without Covenant

### The Danger of Mere Invocation

While calling on the name of the Lord is powerful and necessary (Romans 10:13), it is not the same as being in union with Him. **Invocation without intimacy** can lead to deception—thinking that the use of His name grants us favor, while our hearts remain distant.

### Key Scriptures:

- *“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name...?’ And I will declare to them, ‘I never **knew** you; depart from Me...’”* (Matthew 7:22–23)
- *“These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.”* (Matthew 15:8)

### Marriage Implication:

Using Jesus' name without covenantal relationship is like **calling someone “husband” without having ever married him**. The power is not in the words themselves, but in the **relationship behind the name**.

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## 3. “Knew” – Covenant Consummation (Past Intimacy)

### Biblical Language of Intimacy

The word “**knew**” in biblical language is a term of **deep relational intimacy**, especially used to describe the **consummation of marriage**. When Scripture says, “Adam knew Eve” (Genesis 4:1), it speaks of the most personal union possible.

### Spiritual Application:

When a person is saved, they enter a **first love** encounter—a moment of true union, like a wedding. In this sense, they “knew” Jesus, or more importantly, **He knew them**.

### Key Ideas:

- “Knew” implies a **real, living connection**, not a theoretical belief.
  - If there was never a point of genuine encounter, **Jesus can rightfully say, “I never knew you.”**
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## 4. “Know” – Ongoing Covenant Fellowship

### Living and Growing in Intimacy

To **know** Yeshua is to walk in **daily intimacy**, as a wife knows her husband—not just physically, but emotionally, spiritually, and relationally. It is the **present tense** of covenant relationship: **faithfulness, fellowship, communication, and love**.

### Key Scriptures:

- “*This is eternal life: that they may **know** You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*” (John 17:3)
- “*That I may **know** Him and the power of His resurrection...*” (Philippians 3:10)

### Marriage Implication:

Marriage is not sustained by a wedding day alone—it is **daily knowing**. Likewise, we are not called merely to remember a salvation moment, but to continually walk in **union and communion** with Jesus.

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## 5. The Contrast: Union vs. Invocation

Union (In Christ)	Invocation (Name-Only)
Rooted in covenantal relationship	Rooted in religious formality or power
Carries identity and transformation	May lack heart connection
Involves intimacy and fidelity	Can be used manipulatively or superficially
Yeshua knows and indwells the person	Yeshua may say, “I never knew you”

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## Conclusion: The Bride Must Be in the Bridegroom

To be **in Christ** is to be **in covenantal marriage**—to be joined, transformed, and loved in a way that redefines everything. It is not enough to use His name; we must carry His life. The language of “knew” and “know” draws us into the sacred reality of marriage—where love is more than words, and union more than knowledge.

Let us not settle for surface-level faith but pursue the **depth of spiritual marriage** with our Messiah. Let us be found **in Him**, known by Him, and forever joined to Him in intimacy, faithfulness, and love.



# Guideline: “In,” “Knew,” and “Know” – Marriage Terms of Union with Yeshua



## Session Objective:

To explore the difference between **being in covenant union with Christ** versus simply invoking His name, and to understand how the biblical terms “knew” and “know” describe our spiritual **marriage relationship** with Yeshua.

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## Core Scriptures:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - Matthew 7:21–23
  - John 17:3
  - Genesis 4:1
  - Ephesians 5:31–32
  - Philippians 3:10
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## Teaching Flow:

### 1. Introduction: Marriage Language in the Gospel

- Present the biblical metaphor of **marriage between Christ and His Church**.
  - Explain that God doesn’t just want belief—He wants **intimacy and covenant**.
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### 2. "In" – Covenant Union and Identity

- Define what it means to be **"in Christ"** (2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:3).
  - Compare to marriage: a bride takes her husband’s name, home, and identity.
  - Discuss how **positional union** changes how we live and relate to God.
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### 3. Invoking the Name – Without Covenant

- Discuss the **difference between using Jesus' name** and being known by Him.
  - Matthew 7:22–23: The danger of religious activity without relationship.
  - Illustration: Calling someone “husband” without ever marrying them.
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#### 4. "Knew" – Covenant Consummation (Past)

- Explain the **biblical use of “knew” (yada)** as intimate union (Gen. 4:1).
  - Apply to spiritual life: our **first true encounter** with Jesus (salvation).
  - Point out the seriousness of **never truly knowing** Him (Matt. 7:23).
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#### 5. "Know" – Ongoing Intimacy (Present)

- Present the call to **daily intimacy and knowing Jesus** (John 17:3).
  - Emphasize that spiritual marriage is **relational, not religious**.
  - Encourage living a lifestyle of deepening fellowship with Christ.
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#### 6. Union vs. Invocation (Chart Comparison)

Union (In Christ)	Invocation (Only)
Covenant relationship	Verbal use of His name
Identity & intimacy	Religious appearance
Known by Jesus	Possibly unknown to Him
Bridal commitment	Casual association

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#### Discussion Questions:

1. What does it practically mean to be **“in Christ”** in your daily life?
  2. Why is invoking Jesus' name not enough without relationship?
  3. Have you experienced a moment when you “knew” Jesus intimately?
  4. How is your relationship with Jesus growing in the “knowing” dimension?
  5. What are signs that someone is walking in **union** versus **religious invocation**?
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#### Activation / Response:

- Invite participants to reflect on their own relationship with Jesus.
  - Ask: **Have I truly entered covenant, or have I only used His name?**
  - Lead in a prayer of recommitment, asking to be known by Jesus and to walk in daily union.
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## Optional Activities:

- **Word Study:** Do a deeper dive into the Greek and Hebrew for *in* (ἐν), *knew* (γινώσκω / *yada*), and *know* (οἶδα / *ginosko*).
- **Journaling Prompt:** “Jesus, I want to know You more deeply. Show me what keeps me from full union with You.”
- **Group Reflection:** Share stories of first encounters with Jesus and how the relationship has grown.