

Winter Bible Study 2014

Union with Christ Overview Part 1

Nothing is more central or basic than union and communion with Christ... Union with Christ is really the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation... *John Murray*

Once you have your eyes opened to this concept of union with Christ, you will find it almost everywhere in the New Testament. *Anthony Hoekema*

The New Testament uses 2 phrases interchangeably to describe our union with Christ...

1. **We are In Christ** (2 Cor. 5:17, John 15:4, Gal. 3:28, Phil. 3:9, 1 John 4:13 and more)
2. **Christ is In Us** (Gal. 2:20, Col. 1:27, Rom. 8:10, Eph. 3:17, 2 Cor. 13:5)

Paraphrased from Anthony Hoekema

Salvation from beginning to end is all about our union with Christ.

1. We are initially united with Christ through regeneration (being made alive)
Ephesians 2:4-5, 10
2. We gain and live out this union with Christ through faith
Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 3:16-17
3. We are justified in union with Christ
1 Cor. 1:30, 2 Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:8-9
4. We are sanctified (made holy) through union with Christ.
1 Cor. 1:30, John 15:4-5, Eph. 4:16, 2 Cor. 5:17
5. We persevere in the life of faith through union with Christ.
John 10:27-28, Romans 8:38-39
6. We are even said to die in Christ.
Romans 14:8, 1 Thess. 4:16, Revelation 14:13
7. We will be raised with Christ.
Colossians 3:1, 1 Corinthians 15:22
8. We shall be eternally glorified with Jesus Christ.
Colossians 3:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Union with Christ is an OBJECTIVE REALITY, but it is also meant to be EXPERIENCED
1 John 4:13

Scriptures provide both the declaration of who we are in Christ and the command to respond to that declaration in a certain way... Obedience is not an appeal to be or do anything that the believer is not already... because we are IN CHRIST.

Michael Horton

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Union with Christ Overview Part 2

Ephesians 1:3-23

- (3) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, BLESSED IN CHRIST*
- (4) *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love CHOSEN TO BE BLAMELESS AND HOLY*
- (5) *he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ADOPTED*
- (6) *to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. GRACE*
- (7) *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, REDEMPTION/ FORGIVENESS*
- (8) *which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight*
- (9) *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ HIS WHOLE PURPOSE AND WISDOM*
- (10) *as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. MAKE THINGS WHOLE*
- (11) *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, INHERITANCE*
- (12) *so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.*
- (13) *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, SEALING OF HOLY SPIRIT*
- (14) *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

