



Midweek at Renewal | Union With Christ

Session 3: What Is Union With Christ?

I. Announcements

- A. Night of Worship — Friday, Sept. 9 at 7:00 at The Robinson Gallery Downtown
- B. Raising Up Conference — Saturday, Oct. 22; Emotionally Healthy Parenting;
Register
- C. Baptism Meeting — Sunday, Sept. 9 immediately after service
- D. John Ray's funeral
 - 1. Thursday night, 6-8pm, at Memphis Funeral Home on Poplar and 240
 - 2. Friday at 2pm, Cummings Street MBC

II. Introduction

- A. Lindsay, last week — How to see your union with Christ: Ask for insight.

Ephesians 1:16-18: *"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, [18] having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints..."*

- B. What are we asking for? Better said, what are we asking to see that is already true?
 - 1. To be awed by the realization that we are so intertwined in Christ that when he died, we died with him (Col. 3:3).
 - 2. Every bit of judgment meant for us was absorbed by Jesus.
 - 3. He faced every hostile, cosmic force, seen and unseen, so that through his sacrifice all who believe might live.
 - 4. We are hidden in Christ.

- C. This revelation has been disclosed (Romans 16:25-26), yet still remains a mystery (Ephesians 5:32).
- D. What is union with Christ? Union with Christ means that you are in Christ and Christ is in you.

III. Lindsay — Union with Christ Means You Are In Christ

- A. To fully live is to practice the awareness of being in Christ.
- B. Fully living in Christ is understanding the gospel for you and others.

IV. Tripp — Hidden In Christ

- A. Our identity is in Christ, and because of that, our thinking is now different, our story is one of redemption, freedom, and renewal.

Colossians 3:1-4: *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. [3] For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4] When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”*

- B. We now look different in Christ. Not only does our purpose change, but we are now intertwined with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

- C. We have life in Christ.

Galatians 2:20: *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

V. Union Means Christ Is In You

- A. How can a man who lived 2000-years ago live in us now?
- B. John 13-16 — Jesus preparing his disciples for his absence
- C. John 13:33 — *“Where I am going you cannot come”*

- D. John 14:1 — *“Let not your hearts be troubled.”*
- E. John 14:18 — *“I will not leave you as orphans.”*
- F. John 16:7 — *“...it is to your advantage that I go away.”*
- G. John 14:16-17 — *“Jesus told them, ‘I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth... You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.’”*
- H. The Holy Spirit! The Spirit of Christ! The only thing better than having Jesus beside you would be having Jesus within you!

VI. The Hope of Glory

1. The Spirit now guides us and forms us more and more into the family likeness.
2. Do you realize the resources you have around you?
Ephesians 1:18-20: *“having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might [20] that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead...”*
3. You are precious and unique, created by God to be uniquely who you are. But you were also created to be unified with him — one with him (**Mickey Mouse costume at Disneyland — read from page 47**).

VII. Not Ideas, But Reality

- A. We must have a personal, vital relationship with God. This is not about absorbing the right doctrines.
- B. Enjoying God is the goal! As the Westminster Catechism (1646-47) puts it, *“Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” — Westminster Catechism*
- C. The reality will always be greater than our experience or understanding of it. As C.S. Lewis said, in Letters To American Lady:

The presence of God is not the same as the sense of the presence of God. The latter [sense of] may be due to imagination; the former [actual presence] may be attended with no “sensible consolation” ... The act which engenders a child [sex] ought to be, and usually is attended by pleasure. But it is not the pleasure that produces the child. Where there is pleasure there may be sterility: where there is no pleasure the act may be fertile. And in the spiritual marriage of God and the soul it is the same. It is the actual presence, not the sensation of the presence, of the Holy Ghost which begets Christ in us. The sense of the presence is a super-added gift for which we give thanks when it comes. — C.S. Lewis

- D. The wonder of our union with Christ is not reducible to our experience or understanding of it. It is not the quality or degree of our faith that matters as much as our being united to the object of our faith, the perfect Christ. It is the perfect Christ who saves us, not our imperfect faith or imperfect obedience.

VIII. A Reality We Grow Into

- A. Marriage — pronounced one, but we grow into this reality
- B. Our experience of being found in Christ will grow over time.