

Union with Christ

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The Definition of Union with Christ

Union with Christ describes our **new identity** and **relationship to Christ** which is so intimate and profound that it affords to us **all the benefits** of salvation, as we are **intimately bound** to Jesus Christ by the **Holy Spirit**, sharing in **His life, death, and resurrection**. This **life transforming reality** molds us into the **image of Christ** and makes the **whole scope** of **salvific benefits** (including every doctrine related to salvation) **accessible** to the believer. It is a **term** used to describe a **new multi-dimensional reality**, spanning from **eternity past** to **eternity future** in which we have been **included** being in **Union with Christ**.

Union with Christ is mentioned **30 times** in the first **3 chapters** of the book of **Ephesians**. For example...

- God blessed us ***in Christ*** with every spiritual blessing(1:3)
- God **chose us *in him*** (1:4)
- We're **predestined** for **adoption** *through Jesus Christ* (1:5)
- We're **blessed *in the Beloved*** (1:6)
- ***In him*** we have **redemption** *through his blood* (1:7)
- In the fullness of time, all things will be **united *in him*** (1:10)
- We've been made **alive together *with Christ*** (2:5)
- We've been **raised us up with Him**, and **seated us with Him** in the heavenly places, **in Christ Jesus** (2:6)
- He will in the **ages to come** He might **show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness** toward us **in Christ Jesus**.
- 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which **God prepared beforehand**, that **we should walk** in them

The Nature of Union with Christ

Eternal

Well indeed the Bible does speak about our **Union with Christ** being an **eternal reality** in which we were included from before the **beginning** of creation. So Paul can say... **Ephesians 1:4-7** - 4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 **He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself**, according

to the kind intention of His will, **6 to the praise of the glory of His grace**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. NASB

Incarnational and Federal

He became **one of us** that He might **taste death for us**, and share in our **sufferings** in this **fallen world**, so that He could **embrace us** and **identify with us** at the deepest level...

Hebrews 2:17-18 - 17 Therefore, **He had to be made like His brethren in all things**, so that He might become a **merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God**, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 **For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.** NASU

Spiritual

So **central** and **vital** to **our growth** and **sanctification** is our **Union with Christ** that Paul prays the we will have **Divine power** by the **Spirit** to comprehend Christ's living **presence** in us, and to **grow ever deeper** in the **conscious awareness** of His **love** and **fulness within us**.

Ephesians 3:16-19 - 16 that He would grant you, **according to the riches of His glory**, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.** NASB

Eschatological

This will happen at the **Beatific Vision**, when we finally **see Jesus** face to face, and the **powerful sight** of His **Divine Glory** will **transform us** into **immortal glory** ourselves. This is what Paul mentioned in ...

Colossians 3:4 - 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. NASU

The Application of Union with Christ

Renewal of the Mind

Romans 12:1-2 - 2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASU

... But the **real strength** for this **spiritual effort** in **seeking His face** is relying with **much dependence** upon **Jesus**, who is **alive within us**, and **abiding with us** in the **deepest part** of our **being**.

Faith and Not by Sight

We must continue to **cast the eye of faith** upon **Christ** in His **Word**, and **remind ourselves** of the **great and magnificent promises** that **He** has made to us....

Colossians 3:1-4 - 3 Therefore **if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2 Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.