




#31



KILLER SINS



Victory in Christ



1 + 1 = 1?

YES,

GOD DEFINES MARRIAGE.

2 = 1?

?? = ??

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united** to his wife, and **the two will become one** flesh."

So they are **no longer two, but one.**

Mark 10:7-8 (NIV)

★ But this concept has a significance that goes far beyond that. ★

↓ ↓ ↓

UNITED WITH CHRIST...

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united** to his wife, and **the two will become one** flesh."

This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about **Christ and the church.**

Ephes. 5:31-32 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

2 Cor. 5:17 (CSB)

IN CHRIST...

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

If we've become **united with him** in a death like his, certainly we will also be **united with him** when we come back to life as he did.

Romans 6:5 (GW)

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SEEN BY GOD AS BEING "UNITED WITH CHRIST" OR "IN CHRIST."

- There will always be a distinction between us and Christ. (In other words, we do not become deity.)
- >> YET AT THE SAME TIME <<
- There is a unifying connection between us and him.

A VARIETY OF CONCEPTS ARE USED TO ILLUSTRATE THIS

✓ **The marriage relationship.**

"... the two will become one flesh." ... I am talking about Christ and the church.

Ephes. 5:31b, 32b (NIV)

✓ **Head and body.**

Christ is the head of the church, which is his body.

Col. 1:18a (NLT)

✓ **Vine and branches.**

"I am the vine. You are the branches."

John 15:5a (GW)

✓ **A building and its cornerstone.**

You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone.

In him all the parts of the building fit together and grow into a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephes. 2:20-21 (GW)

✓ **Baptism.**

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:3 (GW)

✓ **Communion (the bread and the cup).**

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

1 Cor. 10:16 (NIV)

The SIGNIFICANCE of all this?

EVERYTHING IN LIFE
IS AFFECTED BY IT!

FIRST, it is the "DIVIDING LINE" between our OLD and NEW lives.

ALL PEOPLE HAVE A UNION WITH ADAM;
ONLY GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE A UNION WITH CHRIST.

- Union with ADAM brings sin and death.
- Union with CHRIST brings righteousness and life.

NOTE THE CONTRAST!

For as in Adam all
die,
so also in Christ all
shall be made alive.

1 Cor. 15:22 (NASB)

THIS "ALL" REFERS TO ALL
WHO ARE "IN ADAM." (SEE
ALSO ROMANS 5:12.)

THIS "ALL" REFERS TO ALL
WHO ARE "IN CHRIST" (AS
EXPLAINED IN V. 23).

UNION WITH CHRIST IS THE BASIS FOR OUR SALVATION.

IF WE ARE
"UNITED WITH
CHRIST," GOD
SEES ...

- Jesus' DEATH as ours.
When Jesus died for our sin, we were
seen as dying with him.
- Jesus' RESURRECTION as ours.
When Jesus rose from the dead, we
were seen as rising to new life with him.

OUR personal experience of this new life occurs:

- When we are born again (= spiritually made alive), and
- At the resurrection from the dead (= physically made alive).

But from GOD's perspective, it's as good as done!

THIS "IN CHRIST" REALITY IS REPRESENTED BY BAPTISM

- In the early church, when people chose to follow Jesus, their first response was to be baptized – which represented a break from their past. So the physical act of baptism represented the spiritual act that was occurring within them.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:3-5 (ESV)

BAPTISM'S SIGNIFICANCE... TO THE SAVED PERSON. *

- "Following Jesus" meant turning from one's past ways to a new way of pursuing righteousness and godliness. It was something that affected all one's interactions with other people.
- Baptism was the first public expression of this union with Christ, representing a rejection of past values ("death" to them) and acceptance of the new way of Christ ("life" in Christ).

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized.

And with him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Col. 2:12 (NLT)

* [When a time gap is placed between salvation and baptism, the physical symbol of baptism is less connected to the reality it describes (which occurs at salvation).]

BAPTISM'S SIGNIFICANCE... TO THE UNSAVED OBSERVERS.

(Since, in the early church, salvation and baptism were closely linked in time.)

- Unsaved observers knew that their way of life was being rejected by the person being baptized.
- They would often take offense and might respond unfavorably.

For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

1 Peter 4:3 (NIV)

They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.

1 Peter 4:4 (NIV)

The world's hostility reinforces our union with Christ!

UNION WITH CHRIST RESULTS IN SUFFERING FOR CHRIST (the world makes sure of it) AND ALSO GLORY.

- The world's hostility causes us to share in Christ's sufferings.

But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:13 (NIV)

- Our willingness to share in Christ's sufferings, means we will also share in his glory!

Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:17 (NIV)

⇌ IT'S AMAZING! ⇌

GOD USES THE WORLD'S SIN TO ACCOMPLISH GOOD
IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST!

Being "in Christ" results in SHARING with Christ:

↳ in his sufferings for a little while.

↳ in his glory forever.

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later.

Romans 8:18 (NLT)

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

2 Cor. 4:17 (NIV)

UNION WITH CHRIST MEANS RIGHTEOUSNESS, ENABLED BY HIS POWER.

(We originally had NO righteousness; so ALL that we now have is from God.)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Cor. 5:21 (NIV)

THIS AFFECTS HOW WE LIVE

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

IT MEANS POWER!

In Christ... The Spirit that empowered Christ now empowers us.

... the incomparable greatness of [God's] power toward us who believe, as displayed in the exercise of his immense strength.

This power he exercised in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms ...

Eph 1:19-20 (NET)

The mighty power of God
that raised Jesus from the dead –

THIS IS THE POWER THAT EMPOWERS US!

IT MEANS SHARING IN HIS "DIVINE NATURE."

- NOT:** becoming part of God's "deity."
- BUT:** referring to the "life and godliness" that are the opposite of the world's "evil desires."

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)



- ✓ God's power makes it possible (as seen here).
- ✓ Our duty is to grow it (as seen in vs. 5-11).

UNION WITH CHRIST MEANS THAT GOD NOW SEES US AS HIS CHILDREN!

- Paul describes this as "adoption" – Romans 8:15, 23; Ephes. 1:5.
- The apostle John describes it as: Becoming "sons of God."

See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are!

Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is.

1 John 3:1a, 2 (CSB)

The surrounding verses show us that, if we are God's children, it will influence our conduct!



THE EFFECT OF BEING GOD'S CHILDREN: RIGHTEOUSNESS AND MORAL PURITY.

- God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together to guarantee it!

RELATED TO
GOD'S
SOVEREIGNTY

THE PREVIOUS VERSE

If you know that he [Jesus] is righteous, you know this as well: Everyone who does what is right has been **born of him**.

1 John 2:29 (CSB)

RELATED TO
HUMAN
RESPONSIBILITY

THE NEXT VERSE

And everyone who has this hope **in him** purifies himself just as he is pure.

1 John 3:3 (CSB)

CONCLUSION

UNION WITH CHRIST:

- Demands and empowers us to become **LIKE** Christ!
- Though we are weak in ourselves, it guarantees that we will reach that goal!

IT ALSO MEANS:



We are not alone in our struggle against sin!



UNITED WITH CHRIST ... WE'RE NOT ALONE!

✓ YES, WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO OVERCOME SIN.

- WE must CHOOSE to do it. (= Next week's focus.)

>> BUT AT THE SAME TIME <<

✓ GOD IS WITH US...

- NOT just demanding that we be like him in holiness and righteousness...
- BUT encouraging, empowering, and guaranteeing that we will get there!

UNITED WITH CHRIST ... WE'RE NOT ALONE!

He is not only the Sovereign God over us...
He is also a faithful friend with us – a **brother**.

For those he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 (CSB)

So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have **the same Father**. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.

Hebrews 2:11 (NLT)

THIS WEEK:

If **CHRIST** is in US:

⇒ **Then we are in Christ!**

And so...

- ✓ God's love is in us.
- ✓ His power is in us.
- ✓ The Spirit is in us.
- ✓ And so much more!

Why should we listen to the Devil's discouraging lies, and go back to the slavery of sin?



WE HAVE THE POWER to NOT do so!



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