

# Union with Christ

## I. Definition of Union

“Union with Christ is a phrase used to summarize several different relationships between believers and Christ, through which Christians receive every benefit of salvation. These relationships include the fact that we are in Christ, Christ is in us, we are like Christ, and we are with Christ.” (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology)

## II. The *roots of union* with Christ are in divine election

### Ephesians 1:3-4

“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, **4** even as **he chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”

## III. The *basis of union* with Christ is the redemptive work of Christ

### Romans 6:2-5

**6:2** How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? **4** 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. **5** 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.

### Ephesians 1:7

**7** **In him we have redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

### Ephesians 2:4-6

**4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us **alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— **6** and **raised us up with him** and **seated us with him** in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**

#### IV. The *actual union* with Christ is established with God's people in time

##### **Ephesians 2:11-13**

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— **12** remember that you were at that time **separated from Christ**, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But **now in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

##### **1 Corinthians 12:13**

**12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For **in one Spirit** we were all **baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to **drink of one Spirit**.

1. We are initially united with Christ in *regeneration*

##### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2. We are *justified* in union with Christ

##### **1 Corinthians 5:21**

**21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him** we might become the righteousness of God.

##### **Philippians 3:8-9**

**8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may **gain Christ** **9** and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes **through faith in Christ**, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

3. We are *sanctified* through union with Christ

**John 15:4-5**

**4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that **bears much fruit**, for **apart from me you can do nothing**.

**1 Cor 6:15-17**

**15** Do you not know that your bodies are **members of Christ**? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! **16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” **17** But he who is **joined to the Lord** becomes one spirit with him.

4. We shall be *raised* with Christ

**21** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ** shall all be made alive. (1 Cor 15:21-22)

5. We shall be eternally *glorified* with Christ

**Colossians 3:3-4**

**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.

**Romans 8:15-17**

**15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and **fellow heirs with Christ**, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be **glorified with him**.