

Soteriowhat?

Taken from Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology, Chapter 43: Union With Christ

Union with Christ

What does it mean to be "in Christ" or "united with Christ"?

Grudem: 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 . . . we are in Christ, Christ is in us, we are like Christ, and we are with Christ.

A. We Are in Christ

1. Before the Foundation of the World (**Ephesians 3:1–12; 2 Timothy 1:8–9**)
2. During Christ's Life on Earth (**John 17:20–23**)
3. During Our Lives Now (**Philippians 4:10–13; 1 John 5:11**)
 - a. We Have Died and Been Raised with Christ (**Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:24**)
 - b. We Have New Life in Christ (**1 John 5:11**)
 - c. All Our Actions Can Be Done in Christ (**2 Corinthians 12:19; Philippians 4:13**)
 - d. All Christians Together Are One Body in Christ (**Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27**)

B. Christ Is in Us (John 15:4–8)**C. We Are Like Christ**

1. We Are to Imitate Him (Ephesians 5:1–2)
 - a. Behavior (1 John 2:3–6)
 - b. Thinking (Philippians 2:4–7)
 - c. Praying (Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4; John 17)
 - d. Heart (John 5:30)
2. We Become Like Him (1 John 4:17; Romans 8:29; Philippians 1:3–6)

D. We Are with Christ (Philippians 1:21–23)

1. Personal Fellowship with Christ (Matthew 11:29; 1 John 1:1–3)

Christ actually desires to have us with Him (John 17:24–26)

2. Union with the Father and with the Holy Spirit (John 17:21; Matthew 6:9)

Scripture Memory Passage

Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.