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)
   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.