

Union with Christ: The Truth That Unmakes You and Remakes You

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

—Acts 9:4

Christ Confronts Paul—and Us

This is the first thing the risen Jesus says to Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus road—and it should stop us cold.

Not, *“Why are you persecuting my followers?”*

Not, *“Why are you attacking the church?”*

But, *“Why are you persecuting **Me**.”*

What Saul did to the church—dragging men and women from their homes, approving of Stephen’s execution, breathing threats and murder—he did to Christ Himself. Jesus does not merely empathize with His people. He is **united** to them.

This is not metaphor. This is spiritual reality.

What happens to the Body happens to the Head. He takes it personally.

Let that settle. Every slander against the church is slander against Christ. Every “church hurt” that turns to church hate is an insult hurled at Jesus. Every snide remark about “the church today,” every cynical post dripping with deconstructionist scorn—He hears it as aimed at Him.

He has bound Himself to us. Our sufferings are His. Our shame is His. Our joy is His. This is not merely covenant—it is **union**.

Union Is Not Encouragement—It’s Reality

The idea of union with Christ isn’t one doctrine among many—it is the *center* of salvation. There is no grace, no righteousness, no resurrection, no adoption, no power, no hope—**except in union with Christ**.

- His death is your death (Rom 6:5).
- His resurrection is your resurrection (Col 3:1).
- His ascension is your ascension (Eph 2:6).

- His righteousness is your righteousness (2 Cor 5:21).
- His future is your future (Rom 8:17).

You are not simply following Christ. You are **in** Him. Joined. Engrafted. Fused. And He is in you.

It's not a feeling. It's not a metaphor. It's the most important thing about you.

And yet... we yawn.

We say we're tired. We say we feel distant from God. We act like orphans while seated in the heavenly places (Eph 2:6). We beg for more while ignoring what we already have: *every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ* (Eph 1:3).

We treat union with Christ as a sentimental slogan. But it is a **status**—and a **summons**. You are no longer your own.

You died.

Real Life: What Union Actually Means

- The father who yells at his kids doesn't need a productivity hack. He needs to remember that the Spirit of Christ dwells in him. That the righteousness of Christ is still his—even when repenting on the floor.
- The stay-at-home mom who feels unseen and exhausted is not forgotten. She is hidden with Christ in God. Her unseen obedience is wrapped in the robes of Christ's merit.
- The addict who fell again must not listen to the devil's voice of shame. His union is not revoked by relapse. He doesn't fight *for* victory—he fights *from* it. Christ is not outside, shouting "try harder." He is *inside*, saying "It is finished."

Union with Christ isn't theoretical. It's the **engine** of the Christian life.

Union Obliterates All Other Identities

But union doesn't just redefine your behavior—it redefines your **being**. That's why it destroys every competing identity.

Here's where the modern world—and much of the modern church—goes off the rails.

Our culture is obsessed with identity. Everyone is encouraged to "live your truth," "be authentic," and "own who you are." And tragically, many in the church have baptized this lie.

But union with Christ will have none of it.

You do not get to name yourself anymore. You do not get to define yourself by your sexuality, your story, your skin color, your psychology, or your scars.

You died.

“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me...” (Gal 2:20)

Nowhere is the war over identity more visible—and more theologically tragic—than in the LGBTQ+ movement. Yes, the sin itself is rebellion. But the deeper offense is **identity**.

“I am gay,” they say.

That’s not a behavior. That’s a **being**. It is a declaration of **ontology**. But a Christian cannot make that claim—about anything sinful.

To say, *“I am gay and I am a Christian”* is to speak as if union with Christ is partial. As if Christ is in your heart, but sin is in your name. As if Jesus is your Lord, but your flesh still owns the deed to your identity.

You cannot say, *“I am gay”* and *“I am in Christ”* in the same breath without blasphemy.

This is not limited to homosexuality. Every false identity that you cling to—every label that becomes more central to you than *“in Christ”*—must be crucified.

- “I am a victim.”
- “I am an addict.”
- “I am anxious.”
- “I am neurodivergent.”
- “I am broken.”

No. If you are in Christ:

- You are more than a conqueror (Rom 8:37).
- You are a new creation (2 Cor 5:17).
- You are complete in Him (Col 2:10).
- You are chosen, holy, and dearly loved (Col 3:12).
- You are not your past, your preferences, or your passions. You are *His*.

Christ does not just save sinners. He **renames them**.

What Would Change If You Believed This?

Everything.

You would stop introducing yourself with disclaimers.

You would stop clinging to shame like a security blanket.

You would stop trying to manufacture fruit and start abiding in the Vine.

You wouldn't speak so casually about the church.

You wouldn't whisper about His bride like she's your ex.

You wouldn't treat Jesus like a spiritual life coach while keeping the nameplate on your old self.

Union is not poetic. It is permanent. You are joined to Christ. That is your life now.

So why do we live like corpses?

Final Confrontation

You are either in Christ or you are in Adam.

You are either living—or dead.

There is no hybrid. No hyphenated self.

The gospel doesn't say, "Come as you are and stay that way." It says, "Come and die."

Because on the other side of death is union.

Christ in you—the hope of glory.

You in Christ—the anchor of identity.

You are not your truth.

You are not your old name.

You are not your former self.

You are in Christ—and there is no "you" outside of Him.