

Message: The Best Kept Secret In The American Church – Union With Christ

Scripture: Selected Scriptures

Teacher: Bob Cargo

Date: 28 May 2017

John Murray

“Nothing is more central or basic than our union with Christ...; it is the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation.”

The N. T. Theme- “in Christ”

Colossians 2:6 (TEV)

⁶Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, live in union with Him.

Eph. 1: 3

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Eph. 1:7

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Rom. 6:3-11

³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gal. 2:20 (NASB)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me.

Eph. 4:22 and 24

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Implications of My Union with Christ:

1. Christ is “enough” for the satisfaction of my heart.
2. Christ is the source of my security with the Father.
3. Christ is the immediate goal in the means/disciplines of grace.

Robert McGee The Search for Significance

“It is important to understand that fruitfulness and growth are the results of focusing on Christ and desiring to honor Him. When growth and change are our primary goals, we tend to be preoccupied with ourselves instead of with Christ.

‘Am I growing? Am I getting any better? Am I more like Christ today? What am I learning?’ This inordinate preoccupation with self-improvement parallels our culture’s self-help and personal enhancement movement in many ways.

Personal development is certainly not wrong, but it is mis-leading—and it can be very disappointing—to make it our preeminent goal. If it is our goal at all, it should be secondary. As we grasp the unconditional love, grace, and power of

God, then honoring Christ will increasingly be our consuming passion...The only

One worthy of our preoccupation is Christ, our sovereign Lord, who told Paul,

‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness’”.

Bryan Chapell, Holiness by Grace

“Spiritual change is more a consequence of what our hearts love than of what our hands do. The spiritual disciplines are important, but not as important as developing a heart for God. Hands and hearts coordinate and reinforce each other’s functions in the biblical model of sanctification, but the heart is the command center for every battle...a full and consistent apprehension of why we love God is the most effective piece of armor in the Christian arsenal, because the Devil always begins his attack with an alienation of our affections. Thus our most powerful spiritual weapon is consistent adulation of the mercy of God revealed in Christ. We preach the Gospel to our own hearts, telling others and ourselves of God’s eternal love, of Christ’s humble birth, sinless life, selfless sacrifice, victorious resurrection and coming glory.”

4. Christ is the means of sanctification and spiritual growth.

Jonathan Edwards, Sermons of Edwards 1738

“From the unchangeableness of your Savior, you may be assured of your continuance in a state of grace. As to yourself, you are so changeable, that, if left to yourself, you would soon fall utterly away. There is no dependence on your unchangeableness. But Christ is the same, and therefore, when he has begun a good work in you he will finish it. As he has been the author, he will be the finisher of your faith. Your love to Christ is in itself changeable. But his to you is unchangeable, and therefore he will never suffer your love to him utterly to fail. The apostle gives the reason why the saints’ love to Christ cannot fail, viz. that his love to them never can fail.”

5. Christ is the motive for obedience.

II Corinthians 6:14 - “The love of Christ constrains me...”

Galatians 5:6 - “The only thing that counts is faith working through love.”

Jonathan Edwards, Charity and Its Fruit

“A result of ‘faith working by love’ is freedom. On this basis, obedience is called ‘evangelical’ (gospel based) – the obedience of children to a Father, done with love and delight, as opposed to legalistic, slavish, and forced. God is now served for His own sake, holiness is chosen for its own sake, and for God’s sake [His glory].”

Our Response? Believe, Repent, and Obey