

Union with Christ: Romans 6:1-11

Week 1



2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Matthew 22:37-40

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

What do you think it means to be “united to Christ”?

In all his letters, the apostle Paul never once uses the word “Christian.” Rather, his most common descriptor for those who follow Christ is that they are “in Christ.” It can be easy to read over that little phrase. Yet it is impossible to overstate its significance for Paul.

-Wilbourne, Rankin. *Union with Christ: The Way to Know and Enjoy God* (p. 29).

Romans 6:1-11 (ESV)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! 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. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1 Corinthians 15:52-57 (ESV)

⁵² For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

How does this passage help you understand the meaning of Romans 6:5-11?

Romans 6:12-15 (ESV)

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

If you applied verse 11: “So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” to your life this week, how might your life look different?

“But this also means that when Jesus was raised from death “by the glory of the Father,” a transformed way of living became possible for those who trust in him (Rom. 6:4). Although we will not experience bodily resurrection until Christ comes again, believers already, by virtue of their union with Christ, have been resurrected with him and possess the benefits of his new life (see also 8:10; Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1). This co-resurrection with Christ has profound ethical implications. It is true that all of us fall short of God’s glory (Rom. 3:23), but it is also true that Christ’s resurrection brings change into our lives now, in this present life. Through faith, we are united with Christ both in his death and in his resurrection (6:5–6). God’s goal in the gospel is for his people to “no longer be enslaved to sin” (v. 6). Jesus’ death, and our union with him there, breaks sin’s stranglehold (v. 7). Jesus’ resurrection life infuses the lives of believers both now and in the age to come (vv. 8–9). Jesus defeated death and is alive in God’s presence (v. 10). We as his followers can and should consider ourselves “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (v. 11).”

- Robert W. Yarbrough, “Romans,” in *Gospel Transformation Bible: English Standard Version*, p. 1509.