

1. Union with Christ - Introduction

Introduction

To discuss:

- Bible Thesaurus: What words or expressions do we use to talk about someone who is Christian?

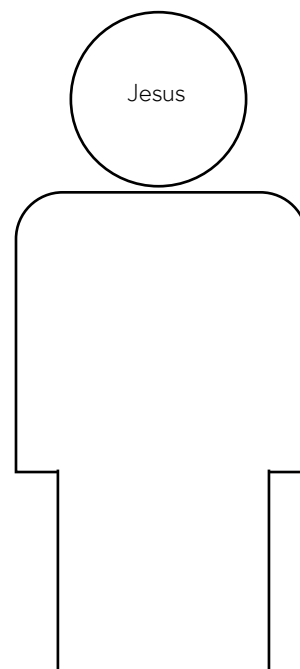
a Christian =

Rom 16:7-9, 1 Cor 4:17, Phil 1:1, Col 1:2, 1 Thess 4:16, Phil 1:23, 2 Cor 12:2, 1 Peter 5:14, 1 John 2:5, ...

(1) What is "union with Christ"?

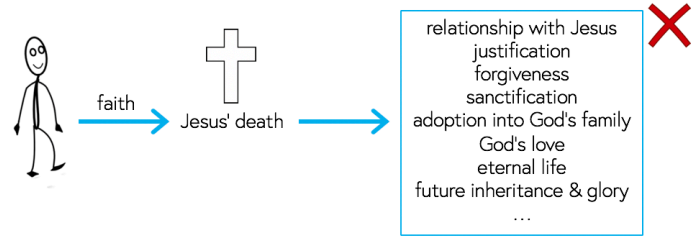
Union with Christ is a real union...

- ...that is both spiritual and bodily
1 Cor 6:15-17
- ...that is deeply intimate and personal
Eph 5:31-32
- ...where we are in Christ and he in us
Col 1:27, Gal 2:20, John 15:4, 1 John 4:13
- ...that is mediated by the Holy Spirit
John 14:16-20, 1 John 4:13, 1 Cor 6:19
- ...that also unites us to God the Father
Col 2:9, John 14:20, John 17:20-21
- ...that we enter into by faith
Eph 3:17
- ...that is eternal and has always existed
Eph 1:3-4

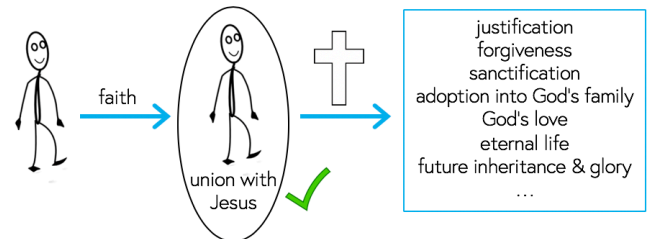


(2) Why is "union with Christ" important?

- Union with Christ is not just one of many blessings...



- ...but the source of all spiritual blessings



To discuss:

- What blessings are dependent on our union with Christ? Look up the following references:

Rom 6:5	Gal 3:26
Rom 6:23	Eph 1:3-11
Rom 8:1	Eph 2:5-6
1 Cor 1:2	Col 2:9-11
1 Cor 1:30	John 6:56-57
1 Cor 15:22	John 15:5
2 Cor 5:17	John 17:21

- So what?
 - worried Wilma
 - frustrated Frieda
 - joyless Josie

To discuss:

- Any questions or comments? What has encouraged you? What has challenged you?
- Do you think of yourself as someone "in Christ"?
- How do you feel about being united with Christ?
- What difference do you think it might make to you to be more aware of your connection with Christ?
- To dig deeper: Look more closely at some of the images that the Bible uses to show us our union with Christ. What adjectives would you use to describe being in Christ? How does the image help you to understand union with Christ better?

Eph 5:25-33	1 Cor 12:12-27
John 15:1-11	1 Peter 2:4-6