

## **OUR UNION WITH CHRIST**

(Ephesians 2:5-6)

If you are a true believer of Christ, you are eternally united to our Lord Jesus Christ. To be saved is to be forever united to the Savior. To be a Christian is essentially to be in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2). A true Christian is not someone who merely comes to church every Sunday, or someone who can quote verses from the Bible, or someone who associates himself with a group of religious people. You can do all these things without being a true Christian. A genuine Christian, according to God's Word, is someone who is united to Christ, someone who is joined to Christ, someone who is bound to Christ, someone in whom Christ is living. As we reflect on Ephesians 2:5-6, let's consider three fundamental truths about the believer's union with Christ.

**1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ in all that He has savingly done for His people.**

Paul uses three phrases to describe God's saving action on behalf of the believers. God "made us alive together with Christ," "raised us up with Him," and "seated us with Him in the heavenly places" (Eph. 2:5-6). Paul's repeated emphasis on the words "together with Christ" conveys the glorious reality of the believer's union with Christ. This union should be understood in a representative or federal sense. In other words, to be "in Christ" means that our Lord Jesus represents us as His people. To be united to Christ means that Jesus is our federal head who represents us before God. If we are joined to Christ, then we are united to Him in all that He has savingly done for His people (Rom. 5:18-19). Our union with Christ makes us the beneficiaries of all that He did to redeem His people. Our sins are credited to Him to be put away on the Cross and His perfect righteousness is credited to us. All the spiritual blessings that we enjoy, the blessing of election, adoption to God's family, redemption, forgiveness of sins, sealing with the Holy Spirit, eternal inheritance become ours all because we are united to Christ (Eph. 1:3-14).

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**2. We now enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.**

By virtue of our union with Christ, we are "made alive together with Christ" (Eph. 2:5). The verb "to make alive" is a synonym of "to raise from the dead." In our sinful nature, we are all spiritually dead. The only way for us to be saved is through the life-giving power of God. This is the supernatural act of God whereby the Holy Spirit implants new life in us, a new heart that is alive to God, a heart that desires and loves God above all else and cherishes Christ as Lord of our life, a heart that delights in obeying God and His will (Ezek. 36:25-27; 2 Cor. 5:17).

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**3. We are now \_\_\_\_\_.**

By virtue of our union with Christ, God has given to all Christians an entirely new and glorious status: we are "raised up with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly places" (Eph. 2:6). This simply means that we are now citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20). In light of our glorious status in Christ, (a) our desire for Jesus and His righteousness govern our affections (Col.3:3; Matt. 5:6); (b) the power of Christ frees us from spiritual bondage (Eph. 1:20-21; Psalm 63:3; Phil. 3:8); and (c) the grace of God assures us of our eternal value in Christ (Eph. 2:7; Gal. 2:20).

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