

UNION WITH CHRIST

Wednesday: God & I Time

Romans 6:3-11 ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him: ⁹Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. ¹⁰For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. ¹¹Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

It's a matter of association.

This passage is all about associations. To be associated with something means you are connected with that person or thing in a meaningful way. We are all associated with something at some point of our lives. Some things we like to be associated with; some things we might not like so much. This week you are associated with your team (silent cheer) and you love it. You will go crazy and cheer out of your mind for a color because you are associated with your team.

If you are a Christian, you are associated with Christ in a much greater way. Read the passage above again and this time circle the words that allude to association (with, into, together, etc.). How many times did you circle a word? ____ Being associated with something can be a wonderful thing. Being associated with Christ is beyond wonderful. List some reasons below that tell why it is beyond wonderful to be associated with Christ.

This association with Christ also has a deeper meaning than to just be connected with someone. The word association can mean something that is temporary. One of the wonderful parts of a Christian's association with Christ is that it is a permanent union that no one or no thing can separate us from. Read Romans 8:35-39 and list all of the things that cannot separate us from the love of God.

Think about this. Nothing someone else can do or nothing that we can do can break our union with Christ.

John 10:28-30 says, *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.* Praise God!

It's a matter of calculating.

Romans 6:3-11 talk about an equation. You are not necessarily wanting to talk about an equation because that reminds you of school. (Just think, a few more weeks and you'll be in class again. Oh, sorry.) The reason we want to talk about this equation is not to review your math skills but to show you the flow of what Paul is saying in this passage. We recognize that this is an equation in verse 11 when we see the word "reckon." This word means more than a phrase like, "I reckon I'll hop in the truck and go the store" (insert redneck accent). The word "reckon" means **to determine by mathematical process, to calculate.**

To be able to calculate something, we must have something to add up. Let's calculate verses 3, 6, and 9. What do we "know" in those verses that add up to verse 11? Fill in the blanks to finish our equation.

$$\begin{aligned} & (v.3) \text{ Know ye not, that so many of us as were } \underline{\hspace{10em}} \\ + & (v.6) \text{ Knowing this, that } \underline{\hspace{10em}} \\ + & (v.9) \text{ Knowing that } \underline{\hspace{10em}} \\ & \hspace{10em} \text{We can...} \\ = & (v.11) \text{ Reckon } \underline{\hspace{10em}} \end{aligned}$$

It's a matter of knowledge.

Let's look a little more in depth at the parts of this equation.

6:3 **Know ye not**, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?

Write the definition of baptism from our key words list on the key words and definitions page.

Baptism _____

It is very important to understand that baptism does not save you. When you are baptized, you are giving a testimony of your union with Christ and that God is Lord of your life. What does it mean for God to be Lord of your life? _____

What are some things that might be in your life that you need to give up to show that God is in His rightful place in your life? List some things below.

Paul goes on to say,

6:4 *Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Just like Christ was raised from the dead, we are raised from the dead to walk in a new life because we are associated with Christ. What does it mean to walk in a "new life"? _____

6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection:

The picture of being planted means that growth is taking place. When something is planted together with something else, the roots grow together and it, in essence, becomes one thing. Because of our association with Christ, we are a new person who is growing to look more like Christ every day. This is what is referred to as sanctification.

Write the definition of sanctification from our definition page below.

As a growing Christian you need something to enable you to grow. What must be in a Christian's life for him to be able to grow? _____ There is a direct correlation with how fast a Christian grows and how much time he or she spends in God's Word. How much time did you spend in God's Word in the month before you came to camp? _____ Guys, you must be in God's Word! If having your personal God & I Time is not in your schedule, can you talk to your counselor and your youth sponsor and figure out a plan for you to stay in the Word of God when you get home?

6:6 **Knowing this**, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed...

Christ was crucified and His body of flesh was *destroyed*. This is a hard thing to think about, but it is healthy for us spiritually. What were some of the ways they *destroyed* Christ's body on the crucifixion day?

Because we are Christians we have been crucified with Christ, which means that our body of sin was destroyed as well. What does the end of verse 6 say is the result of that crucifixion? *That henceforth* (from here forward) _____

6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.

Those of us who have been crucified with Him are freed from sin's bondage and *LIVE with Him*. That's incredible news! We are dead to sin and alive to God. Again, YOU CAN WIN! Not because of you, but because you are in Christ. But wait, there's more...

6:9 **Knowing that** Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. 10 For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God.

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more means that Christ died but it wasn't that He was resuscitated. Christ did not die again. He conquered death. Revelation 1:18 says, *I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Christ died to sin paying the price, but now He lives to God. This is not two different natures but two different lives. Just like Christ, we who are Christians have two different lives. Our former life is dead and has no power. Our new life is lived for the glory of God.

Knowing these three things, we come to this conclusion in 6:11:

6:11 *Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Again the word *reckon* means **to determine by mathematical process, to calculate**. It means we come to this conclusion and the conclusion is this: that we as Christians are also, because of Christ, *dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God*.

It is extremely important to notice that last part of verse 11. This only happens through Jesus Christ our Lord. We are dead to sin because Christ defeated sin. We win the battle because Christ already won it.

The main thought that we need to know from verses 3-11 is the Truth that if you are a believer, you are what is referred to as "in Christ." When we are "in Christ," it means we are in Him and He is in us. This in turn means that we are dead to sin. Think about this illustration: when we are born physically, we step into an atmosphere of air. We live in the air and the air is inside of us. When a person becomes a Christian, they no longer breathe the air of sin, they breathe the air of Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 this verse says *If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature*. What does this verse say has *passed away*? _____

What has *become new*? _____ What does this mean for Christians? _____

Christ has conquered sin but that doesn't mean that we don't have effort in this Christian life to defeat sin; we absolutely do! However, it starts at the cross. When Christ died He won the battle and gave us grace to win. Starting tomorrow we are going to see our part in this. Today, pray and thank God for His Son and the gift of grace.