



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

Unification – Union with Christ

Lesson 23 – We are in Christ

September 10, 2017

I. **Lesson Starter:**

We will be continuing in our third and final section of this series, titled “Unification, our Union with Christ”. We started last week looking at “We are in Christ” with an emphasis on “In God’s Eternal Plan” and “During Christ’s Life on Earth”. Today we will be finishing this part with “**During our Lives Now**”.

II. **Explanation and Scriptural Basis**

As a review, Every aspect of our God’s relationship to believers is in some way connected to our relationship with Christ. We may define “union with Christ” as follows:

- *Union with Christ is a phrase word used to summarize several different relationships between believers and Christ, through which Christians receive every benefit of salvation. These relationships include the fact that we are in Christ, Christ is in us, we are like Christ and we are with Christ.*

III. **We are in Christ – During Our Lives Now**

1. **Dying and Rising with Christ**

Colossians 2:9-12

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self-ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

The death, burial and resurrection of Christ have real effects in our lives. Paul’s references to baptism and faith indicate that our dying and rising with Christ occur spiritually in this present life at the time we accept Christ. He also sees the present death and resurrection with Christ as a way of describing and explaining the change within us as the Holy Spirit brings about the changes in our personality and character spiritually when we become Christians.

We have died with Christ so that we are not overpowered and driven by the sinful influences of this life (Romans 7:6, Galatians 2:20, Col 2:20)

- We find ourselves wanting to serve God
- Able to serve Him with power and success
- We are now “alive with God” through being “In Christ”

Romans 6:4

⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life”

It is the point that since we died and rose with Christ, “In Christ” that we have the power to overcome personal sin more and more (Romans 6:12-14, 19). We are a new creation and should therefore set our minds on things that are above (Col 3:1-3).

2. **New Life “In Christ”**

Every stage of the application of redemption is given to us because we are “In Christ”. It is the “in Christ” as to why we are:

- Called to salvation (1 Cor. 7:22)
- Regenerated (Eph. 1:3; 2:10)
- Justified (Romans 8:1, 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal 2:17)
- “In Christ we die” (1 Thess. 4:16, Rev. 14:13)
- “In Christ we will be raised” (1 Cor. 15:22)

These points and passages show that because our Christian lives are inseparably connected to Christ himself, the Holy Spirit gives us all of these blessings that Christ earned, by only being “In Christ”.

3. All our Actions Can Be Done in Christ

To become a Christian is to enter into the newness of the world to come and experience the powers of the kingdom of God. To be “In Christ” is to be part of that new realm that Christ controls. This means that every action in lives can be done “In Christ”, if it is done in the power of his kingdom and in a way that brings honor to him.

- In the Lord your labor is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58)
- Live a Godly life (2 Tim. 3:12)
- Have good behavior (Phil 1:14)
- Work hard (Romans 16:12)
- Stand firm (Phil 4:1)

Paul’s hope is that Christians love “In Christ” in all they do: “Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in Him. (Col. 2:6-7)

4. One Body “In Christ”

We are not simply “In Christ” as an isolated person that has been saved. All who are in union with Christ are related to one another in his body. This joining together makes us “one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:4-5

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

1 Corinthians 12:26

²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together”

IV. Group Questions

1. Discuss how the Holy Spirit helps transform *you personally* from the pressures, demands and sinful influences of your pre-saved life? Can we make ourselves “dead” to these desires?
2. What does the scripture “dead to sin and alive to God In Christ Jesus mean to you?
3. Can someone have the redemptive new life without being “In Christ”? Discuss your answer (Look at Section 2)
4. Do you believe that “every action” in our lives can be done “In Christ” Give your reasoning behind your answer, either yes or no? (Look at Section 3)
5. As we think through one Body being “In Christ”, can entire churches be “in Christ”? Discuss how Christ’s purpose is to perfect and purify the church to be more “In Christ”? (Look at Section 4)