
Sermon Notes

October 25, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

God is For Us: United With Christ

Romans 5:1-11

“IN” Christ

- ❖ Paul uses the phrase, *in Christ* 73 times in his epistles
 - union with Christ is the central truth around which the whole doctrine of salvation revolves
 - from eternity past to eternity future
- ❖ If we grasp the importance of our union with Christ, we will be a very happy and holy people

POSITIVE Christianity

- ❖ Many people have a negative perception of what it means to be a Christian
 - Paul’s words in Romans 6 “pull the rug out from under” this kind of thinking
 - it is SIN that is negative!
 - “in Christ” we are freed from sin and freed to a brand new life, which is positive
 - death to sin is followed by resurrection to life
- ❖ *Newness of life* is what Christianity is all about

- ❖ **ALL** of your life is new, fresh, exciting
- ❖ Paul challenges and seeks to insure that we are properly equipped for our fight against sin so we can enjoy the fullness of life that being *in Christ* brings
 - Paul wants us to triumph over sin
 - Paul wants us to walk in the newness of life and be a new kind of people

The New Life

- ❖ What happened to Christ is counted by God as having happened to us (v. 5)
 - Jesus’ death is our death
 - Jesus’ resurrection is our resurrection
- ❖ In God’s way of seeing things, our death to sin happened on the day Christ died
 - v. 6, *our old self was crucified with him...* a past, completed action
 - your *old self* is the old you, what you were in Adam
 - the old you was crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)
- ❖ Why does the “new me” go on sinning?
 - v. 2 tells us we can’t go on living in sin
 - those who are united with Jesus in His death and resurrection will not go on living with an unchanged pattern of sin in their lives

- however, though the identity we receive through our union with Christ is safe and secure, we have yet to receive the full weight of all the benefits and blessings Christ secured for us through His sacrifice
 - fully forgiven, acquitted of sin, declared righteous, justified by faith alone in Christ alone, delivered from our slavery to sin
 - we must continue to fight the fight of faith as we resist the devil, battle sin and progressively pursue what we are in Christ (Philippians 3:12)
- ❖ Paul makes a distinction between our *old self* and *the body of sin* (v. 6)
 - your *old self* is crucified
 - but, your old nature (*the body of sin*) is still rearing its ugly head, tripping you up and giving you fits
 - “getting this” straight will prevent a lot of false guilt
 - our issue is **NOT** putting our *old self* to death
 - ♦ our issue is with our old nature
 - ♦ our **inclination** to sin must be dealt with
 - ♦ these inclinations can be robbed of their power and *be brought to nothing*
 - sadly, all too often, we choose slavery to sin over freedom with Christ
- ❖ We must guard against allowing what are appropriate, God-given bodily appetites to “get in the driver’s seat” of our life (e.g. food, sleep, emotions, sex)

- ❖ We are united with Christ *in a resurrection like his*
 - God’s purpose in saving you is to bring glory to Himself by conforming you to the image of Christ
 - the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is alive and at work in us
- ❖ Like Jesus, the life you live you live to God
- ❖ Become who you are *in Christ*

Personal Application

1. Your *old self* is crucified (already dead!) but your old nature (*the body of sin*) still pushes its sinful agenda. How is this tension most apparent in your life? Based on Romans 6:1-11, what course of action will you pursue as you *consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus*?
2. How is God putting Jesus’ resurrection power on display in your life as He conforms you to the image of Christ?
3. Many people have a negative perception of what it means to be a Christian. How does the way you pursue the freedom and fullness of your new life in Christ help show the inaccuracies of these misperceptions?
4. Are there any ways in which the kind of “false guilt” described in this sermon are dragging you down and robbing you of the joy that comes from being united with Christ in His death and resurrection?