

Union with Christ in Paul, particularly Resurrection

Paul's fascination with Union with Christ. Acts 8:1, 3; 9:1, 4-5 (c.f. Matthew 25:31-46, esp. 40, 45)

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? ... I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

1 Corinthians 15:1-28, Resurrection as a **future** reality that is certain for the believer.

- Logical union (if A, then B)
 - Logic originates in God.
 - If Christ has not been raised, our faith is in vain, worthless. (14)
 - If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sins, (17)
 - If Christ has not been raised, we are the most pitiful men of the whole human race. (19)
 - Since Christ has been raised, they shall be raised (22b)
 - **If they will not be raised, He cannot have been raised. If He wasn't raised, they won't be raised. Since He has been raised, they by necessity will be raised.**
- Organic union (firstfruits)
 - John 15:5 *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*
 - Rom. 11:16 *If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.*
 - The part is of the same substance (i.e. dough) as the whole; the root and branches are part of the same tree. In the same way, the grain in the firstfruits and the grain in the last of the sheaves is all part of the same harvest.
 - **We are now living in the days of the resurrection harvest because Christ has been raised.**
- Federal Headship union (Two Adam Christology)
 - In Adam all die ... in Christ shall all be made alive (23).
 - Rom. 5:12-21, e.g. 14 *Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*
 - 2 Pet. 3:12 *... waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!*
 - **That which Adam deserved, all united to Him receive (even if not deserving it in themselves). Likewise with Christ, the second Adam.**

Ephesians 2:1-10, Resurrection as a **past** reality (with ongoing significance) in the life of the believer.

- *We have been raised* v5, 6 with HIM. (c.f. Rom. 6:13b).
- *Christ was passive in His rsn.* (1 Cor. 15:4, 15, Rom. 6:4, 9) *We are passive in ours. God saves sinners!*
- v8 *By grace you have been saved... not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (!)*

Romans 6:1-14, Resurrection as a **present** reality in the believer.

- Christ will never die again (9-10). Once raised always raised.
- We are raised... therefore we must consider ourselves alive (v11).
 - Already & not yet Adoption (Rom. 8:15, 23)
 - Already & not yet Death (Col. 2:20, 3:3, 5, c.f. Gal. 2:20)
 - Already & not yet Resurrection (Col. 3:1, 1 Cor. 15:22, 1 Thes. 4:16)
 - Already & not yet Session (being enthroned) (Eph. 2:6, 2 Tim. 2:12)
- Therefore v11-14. (consider yourselves... let not sin reign... do not present... present yourselves to God)

What about you? Are you dead in sin or alive in Christ? Have you been raised with Christ? Are you living by faith in Him? Flee to Him! Are you living in light of the future certainty that is yours in Christ?

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." - Jim Elliot

Paul's autobiographical personal union with Christ.

- Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
- Phlmn 1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus...
- Rom. 9:1 I am speaking the truth in Christ ...
- Rom. 14:14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself ...
- Rom. 16:7 Andronicus and Junia ... were in Christ before me.
- 2 Cor. 12:2 I know a man in Christ ...
- Col. 4:17 Tychicus ... is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

All Christians/Baptized persons have union with Christ

- Phil. 1:1 ... To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi ...
- Col. 1:2 To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae ...
- Rom. 16:11 ... Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus.
- 1 Cor. 7:39 ... But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.
- 1 Thess. 1:1 ... To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ ...
- Gal. 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- 1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.
- 2 Cor. 3:14, 16 ... that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ... But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

Unity with other Christians in our union with Christ

- Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Cor. 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Mutual indwelling in our union with Christ

- Col. 1:27 ... the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory
- Jn. 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

We labor in union with Christ

- Rom. 16:12 ... Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.
- 1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

We are accounted righteous (justified) in union with Christ

- Gal. 2:17 ... our endeavor to be justified in Christ ...
- Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Cor. 5:19 ...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses...
- Phil. 3:8-9 ... For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

We have confidence that we will grow in holiness (sanctification) through our union with Christ

- Rom. 6:6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
- 2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. ...

We will be raised from the dead (resurrected) in union with Christ

- Eph. 1:19-20 ... his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places ...
- 1 Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- 1 Thes. 4:16 ... And the dead in Christ will rise first.