

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

1

Soteriology IX

Union with Christ, Glorification

2

Union with Christ

Definition
The life of Jesus Christ risen, glorified, and dwelling within the believer is the life of the Christian.

3

Union with Christ

Historical Views

- ✓ Ontological/Mystical—mystical absorption on the divine life (appeals to Gal 2:20)
- ✓ Sacramental Union (Roman Catholics and some Lutherans)—united to Christ via the sacraments (especially baptism and Eucharist; appeals to John 6:53)
- ✓ Covenantal Union—united with Christ under the Covenant of Grace (no such covenant named in Scripture)
- ✓ Moral Union—Friendship, trust and fellowship
- ✓ Experiential Union—Union with Christ is a relationship of personal identification and fellowship with Christ.

4

Union with Christ

Categories of Experiential Union

- ✓ Christ in us
 - ❖ By faith (2 Cor 13:5)
 - ❖ By Holy Spirit (John 14:16–20, 23)
 - ❖ Places Christ's life within us—a quickening of the spirit (Gal 2:20; Rom 8:10)
 - ❖ Need to be recognized and experientially realized (2 Cor 13:5; Gal 4:19)
 - ❖ Provides hope for the future (Col 1:27)

5

Union with Christ

Categories of Experiential Union

- ✓ Us in Christ
 - ❖ Planned in eternity past (Eph 1:4)
 - ❖ Effected by a spiritual identification with Christ (Rom 6:3–5; Eph 2:4–7)
 - ❖ It provides new, eternal life (Rom 6:4, 11, 23; 1 Cor 15:22).
 - ❖ We become one spirit with Christ (1 Cor 6:17)
 - ❖ We become a new creature (2 Cor 5:17)
 - ❖ Foundation of our security of salvation

6

Union with Christ

Illustrations

- ✓ Vine and branches (John 15:5)
- ✓ Father and Son (John 14:20; 17:21)
- ✓ A building (Eph 2:19–22)
- ✓ Human body (Rom 12:4–5; 1 Cor 12:12–27)
- ✓ Husband and wife (Eph 5:23–32)

7

Union with Christ

Implications

- ✓ Antidote to legalism (Col 2:20)
- ✓ Antidote to worldliness (Col 3:1)
- ✓ Means we are declared righteous (Rom 8:1)
- ✓ We live in Christ's strength (Phil 4:13)

8

Glorification

- ✓ Glorification is the future aspect of our salvation (Rom 8:29–30)
- ✓ Where soteriology and eschatology intersect
- ✓ Hope of Glorification (Ps 73:24; Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17; 2 Thess 2:14; 1 Peter 5:4)

9

Glorification

Phases of Glorification

- ✓ *Phase 1*
Believer's death—soul departs physical body to enter the presence of Christ (2 Cor 5:8; Luke 23:43; Acts 7:59; Matt 17:3)
- ✓ *Phase 2*
Rapture/Resurrection event (1 Thess 4:13–18)
- ✓ *Phase 3*
Right after second coming of Christ—OT saints and tribulation saints resurrected (Dan 12:1–3; Rev 20:4–6).
- ✓ *Phase 4*
(implied)—Millennial saints raised

10

Glorification

Results of Glorification

- ✓ Glorified physical existence (Rom 8:23; Phil 3:20–21)
- ✓ Perfected morally and spiritually (Perfected or Ultimate Sanctification; Col 1:22; Jude 24; 1 John 3:2; Heb 12:23)
- ✓ Fullness of knowledge (1 Cor 13:12)
- ✓ Participation in the renewal of the creation (Rom 8:19–23; Rev 21:1–2)

11

Glorification

Implications

- ✓ Motivates to Godly living now (1 Cor 15:58)
- ✓ Ultimate answer to the problem of evil
- ✓ Someday we will not struggle with sin
- ✓ Full glorified experience of relationships with God and fellow believers

12



13
