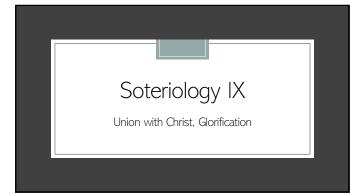


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Union with Christ

# Definition

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

# 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.

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# 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)

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# 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

# 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) Union with Christ Implications Antidote to legalism (Col 2:20) Antidote to worldliness (Col 3:1) Means we are declared rightroous (Rom 8:1) We live in Christ's strength (Phil 4:13)

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# 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)

# 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

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# 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)

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# Glorification

## Implications

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