

Ephesians. The Identity of the Church that Overcomes

Part 21: Our Union with Christ

Houses of Light Church • March 9, 2025 • Pastor Netz Gomez & Ilse Marquez

Focus: Ephesians 2:4-7

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 2:4-7***

- I. What God the Father did for us in Christ
 - A. We are returning to our study of Ephesians! To give continuity to the message, let's review the magnificent work our heavenly Father does in us through Jesus:
 1. Read Ephesians 1:3-13, 2:4-6
 2. God did all of these things for us in Christ, simply because it pleased Him to do so! This is something he **CHOSE** to do simply because he wanted to.
 - B. It's important to recognize that it wasn't our initiative that jump started our salvation or any of these blessings, all of these actions came from God. He took the initiative to make them happen independent from our own choices and actions.
- II. How do we experience what God has done?
 - A. All of these blessings happen in our lives because we are in Christ and what God did was take action to unite us with Christ and graft us into Him.
1 Corinthians 1:30 - *"And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption"*
 - B. So God **ALREADY DID** all of this, the question is, are we experiencing it? If we are not, that's because we need to **UNITE** and **IDENTIFY** with Christ in His death and resurrection:
Romans 6:3-4 - *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."*
 - C. God did all of this through the work of Christ and then He united us with Him — but it is by faith that we can embrace this reality, live in it, and enjoy it. Faith rests on the reality of what God already did.
Galatians 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."*
 - D. God united Paul to Christ in such a way that he experienced the death of his old self. Paul affirms: Now I am a different person. This person is Christ who lives in me and by faith I receive that God what God has done in me.
 - E. First, God united us with Christ in His death: the "me" that lived according to her desires had to die with Christ so that the spiritual death I used to be in could end. Then, I could experience resurrection from spiritual death and a new life in Him. Now, God has grafted us into the life of Christ and we are responsible only for remaining in Him.
John 15:4 - *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."*
 - F. Remaining in Christ implies communion/fellowship with Him, but it also means practical actions from us:
Ephesians 4:20-24 - *"But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."*
 1. Now we get to put off the old man that is subject to deceitful desires.
 2. We get to practice renewing our minds.

3. We get to put on the new man created in Christ — this is to embrace this new self by faith!
- G. That's how we experience every blessing! Our union with Christ is so real that it transcends to the moment that He manifests His glory in His second coming.
Colossians 3:1-4 - *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*
- H. This union with Christ not only implies the glorious aspects of our salvation. It also includes suffering while we are on the earth as we choose to remain in Him:
Romans 8:17 - *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."*
- I. The one who remains in Christ lives like Him.
Colossians 3:13 - *"bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."*
1 John 2:6 - *"...whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."*
- III. The Father's ultimate goal
Ephesians 2:7 - *"so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."*
- A. This whole glorious work of dying and living and sitting with Christ happens by the grace of God. We could not do anything to accomplish this on our own, and we could never earn it. God planned from the foundation of the earth that His grace would be received, embraced, and enjoyed by faith.
- B. The Father's final goal when He does all of this in Christ is to show off His grace and the great love He has — there's so much of it that it'll take all of eternity to experience the fullness! God's purpose is that His grace would be glorified! (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14)
- C. If you are asked why God saved you, you must tell them so that in the ages to come, in eternity, He can display the riches of His grace upon me through my union with Christ. God receives the glory and we receive eternal joy.
- IV. Reflection questions:
- A. What has God done for you? How have you experienced His goodness? Share the story with your friendship group.
- B. How can you increase your fellowship with Christ in such a way that experience more of what God has done for you? Explain.