

## Thursday Morning Group 2023 – Session Two

**Recap Session One:** The glory of God is paramount. We cannot add to God's glory. He is total and perfect goodness and holiness.

The nature of the kingdom is determined by the king



*I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of Me in their hearts, that they may not turn from Me. I will rejoice in doing them good... Jeremiah 32:40*

*After Moses had seen the works of God, which were great and marvellous, he still found himself unsatisfied. Therefore, he prayed that God would show him His glory (Exodus 33:18). He knew that the ultimate rest, blessing and satisfaction of the soul is not in seeing the works of God, but the glory of God Himself." John Owen*

How do we come to know, and grow in relationship with, the Father of all Glory? Only as we are in Union with Christ.

### **Session Two: Session Two: Our Union with Christ enables us to know the God of all Glory and secures us**



There is a change from Jesus' earthly ministry: "If anyone would **come after me**, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and **follow me**" Luke 9:23

Crucifixion → Resurrection → Ascension



*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20*

*"I am in my Father, and you in Me, and **I in you**." John 14:20*

*...whoever keeps His word, in Him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that **we are in Him**: Whoever says **he abides in Him** ought to walk in the same way in which He walked 1 John 2:3-6*

### **Ephesians 1:3-14:**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for **adoption to himself** as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> **In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to **unite all things in him**, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> **In him** we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined

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according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> **In him** you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

### Thoughts:

V4 Chosen “In Him...” Before the foundation of the world!	<b>The Past</b>
V7 In Him we have redemption	<b>The Present</b>
V10, 13, 14 Fullness of time, sealed guarantee of inheritance	<b>The Future</b>

### Questions:

Who has blessed us?	Who predestined?	Whose purpose?
Whose will?	Whose grace?	Redemption in whom?
Whose blood?	Whose riches?	Whose wisdom?
Whose insight?	Whose guarantee?	Whose truth?
Who sealed us?	How many persons of the Trinity are involved?	




What is the goal of God in our union with Christ. Why is God uniting sinners to His Son by the Holy Spirit?

(6)?	
(12, 14)?	

In Christ = absolute security

### Our Union with Christ secures us and answers all of our deep needs

#### Three Essential Deep Needs

 Identity	 Meaning?	 Purpose?
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Where can we find the truth about these essential questions?

We are created by the One True Glorious God of all things. Identity is “In Christ”

**Two main views of identity:** A given identity or an earned identity...

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1. “You are your performance.”

2. “You are your history.”

3. “You are your passions”

“You will be like God.” Satan's first temptation

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17).

God's children have a true identity. Who are we? Better question is “Whose are we?” Our identity, as believers, is “In Christ”.

“In Christ”?



Adelaide to Vancouver. What relationship do I need to have to this plane?

Follow it? Imitate it?

I need to be **in it!** If I am in the plane, what happens to the plane will also happen to me.

It does not matter whether I am nervous or a confident traveller!

Exodus 14 Red Sea 1 victorious 2. Will we make it?

However weak we are, however poor, however little our faith, or however small our grace may be, our names are still written on His heart; nor shall we lose our share in Jesus' love. Charles Spurgeon

If we are “IN CHRIST” whatever is true of Him is now true of us.



### Some more Biblical visuals:

Christ is the vine and we are the branches. John 15:2, 4-5

Christ is the Church's husband and we are His bride. Ephesians 5:24-25, 32 1 Corinthians 6:17

Christ is IN US; we are IN CHRIST; everything He has is ours by faith.

Whatever is true of Him is now true of us!

- He died, we died.
- He is raised, we are (and will be) raised.
- He is blameless, we are blameless – He has overcome death and we are freed from sin's pollution, penalty and power.
- He is loved, we are loved.

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### Union comes before Communion

What can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8).

In Christ- we are in an eternal covenant relationship.

Our communion with God - the ability to feel His love, can fluctuate.

Our union with Christ - total one-sided act of divine grace that secures us in covenant with Him, and applies all of Christ's redemptive work to us.

The Body of Christ, we need to encourage one another in truth.

Christ unites us with each other because we are IN HIM. 1 John 1:1-3.

Fellowship is a consequence of our union with Christ.

We are united to His life, His joy, His peace, His love. Not just that we have life and joy and peace and love because we are in Him, but that we have His life, and joy, and peace, and love because He is in us.

#### Meditate and rejoice this week!

Created in Christ	Ephesians 2:10
Crucified with Him; Alive in Him	Galatians 2:20
Freed with Him	Colossians 2:12
Baptised into Christ and His death	Romans 6:3
United with Him in His resurrection	Romans 6:5
Seated with Him in the heavenly places	Ephesians 2:6
Christ being formed in us	Galatians 4:19
Christ dwells in our hearts	Ephesians 3:17
The Body of Christ	1 Corinthians 6:15; 12:27
Christ in us	2 Corinthians 13:5
We are in Christ	1 Corinthians 1:30
The church is one flesh with Christ	Ephesians 5:31-32
Righteous in Him	Philippians 3:8-9
Released from condemnation in Him	Romans 8:1
Justified and glorified in Him	Romans 8:30
Sanctified in Him	1 Corinthians 1:2
Called in Him	1 Corinthians 1:9
Made alive in Him	Ephesians 2:5
A new creation in Him	2 Corinthians 5:17
Adopted in Him	Galatians 3:26
Elected, holy, blameless in Him	Ephesians 1:4-5

The Triune God created us for His glory; He has brought us into Union with the Son; He secures us and has given us true Meaning, Identity and Purpose.

**Next Time:** How the Spirit brings us to see and know God's glory through our union with Jesus.