

Union with Christ: Chapter 2 & 3

“Union with Christ: What is It?” & “Why We Need It: Two Songs Playing in Our Heads”

Worship: Eagle's Wings by Reuben Morgan

(Here is a psalm/song to help your group as you worship. You can go through it together or in groups in meditation and/or in prayer)

Here I am waiting, abide in me, I pray
Here I am longing for You
Hide me in Your love, bring me to my knees
May I know Jesus more and more

Here I am waiting, abide in me, I pray
Here I am longing for You
Hide me in Your love, bring me to my knees
May I know Jesus more and more

Come live in me, all my life, take over
Come breathe in me, I will rise on eagle's wings
Come live in me all my life, take over
Come breathe in me, I will rise on eagle's wings

Come live in me, all my life, take over
Come breathe in me, I will rise on eagle's wings
Come live in me all my life, take over
Come breathe in me, I will rise on eagle's wings

Icebreaker

Where do you feel the most safe and at home?

OR

Whose shoes would you like to walk in?

Guiding Question of the Week

(This question is intended as a target for the whole conversation. Do not ask for responses now. It will be repeated later in the study.)

What does it mean to be “in Christ”?

Questions for Discussion

(Remember it is better to wrestle deeply with two good questions than gloss over many. Sub-bullets are intended for potential follow-up.)

- 1) What stood out to you in Chapters 2 & 3? As you read these two chapters, what questions or thoughts came up to the surface?
- 2) How does extravagant grace (“just believe”) and radical discipleship (“just obey”) play out in your life?
 - Which “song” do you naturally gravitate towards: extravagant grace or radical discipleship? Can you name examples of your tendency towards one or the other? What drives that inclination?
 - How can we avoid “the danger of cheap grace” or “the danger of salvation through works”?
 - How can we hear both of these songs without compromising either and both at full volume?
 - How does Jesus hold both songs in His heart and in His life?
- 3) **Guiding Question:** What does it mean to be “in Christ”?
 - What does it mean to be crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20)?
 - Buried with Christ (Rom 6:4)?
 - Raised with Christ (Col 3:1)?
 - Seated with Him in the heavenly places (Eph 2:6)?
- 4) What does John Calvin mean by “double grace” on page 72? What does it look like that both justification and sanctification flow out of our union with Christ (1 Cor. 1:30)?
- 5) As we dive in further and begin our journey on understanding Union with Christ, let’s spend extended time in prayer (see below for prayer prompts).

Praying for One Another

(Here are some ideas from the study to help focus your time in prayer as a group. Use by themselves or along with other prayer requests.)

- Start off with a prayer of gratitude: “Thank you, Lord, that it is the perfect Christ who saves us, not our imperfect faith or our imperfect obedience”
- Pray that “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe” (Eph 1:18-19).
- Ask members in your group to read and pray these following verses over your group:
 - John 17:21-23
 - John 17:26
 - Eph 3:16-19
- Meditate for 3 minutes: **“You are in Christ”**.
 - Think of something that discourages you, a habit that you can’t get rid of, or bad thoughts that you can’t shake.
 - Remember “I am in Christ. I am one for who He died”. You are set free. Turn to Him now. You are covered by Christ’s righteousness: “That’s not who I am anymore. I’m in Christ and Christ is in me. Christ, help me to be the person I am in you – by grace”
- For the next 3 minutes, meditate on: **“Christ is in you”**.
 - Read 1 John 4:4.
 - Pray that you would lean more and more on Christ’s strength as you take steps in the dark by faith.
 - Remember that the all-powerful, all-loving Jesus dwells within you. He covers you and hides you under His wings. You are loved and cherished by your heavenly Father.