

Series: Holy Week 2021: Easter

Sermon: United with Christ

Scripture: Romans 5:12-6:11, Various Texts (ESV)

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Ephesians 1:7-9a (ESV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will...

Romans 16:25-26 (ESV)

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God.

I. Union with Adam.

Romans 5:12-14 (ESV)

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned -- for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

II. Union with the second Adam: Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17 (ESV)

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many...for if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:5 (ESV)

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

What is union with Christ?

1. Being united to Christ means that we are ***in Christ***.

"If we are united to Christ, then we are united to him in all that he has done for us. Christ represents those who come to be his so thoroughly that we are said to have been 'crucified with Christ' (Gal. 2:20), 'buried with him' (Rom. 6:4), and 'raised with Christ' (Col. 3:1). We are even 'seated...with him in the heavenly places' (Eph. 2:6) now as we walk about with both feet on the ground."

- Rankin Wilbourne, Union with Christ

Union with Christ means that all that is his becomes ours.

Union with Christ means that his perfect, obedient life becomes our perfect, obedient life.

Union with Christ means that his death becomes our death.

Union with Christ means that his resurrection becomes our resurrection.

Union with Christ means that his ascension becomes our ascension.

Union with Christ means that his inheritance becomes our inheritance.

To sum it up: Union with Christ means that we are completely and safely hidden in him.

Colossians 3:3 (ESV)

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

2. Being united to Christ also means that Christ is *in us*.

III. Union with the body of Christ: the Church.

Romans 8:14-16 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

John 17:22-23a (ESV)

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one.

Ephesians 1:7-9a (ESV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Romans 5:12-6:11 (ESV)

5¹² *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*

13 *for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.*

14 *Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

15 *But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.*

16 *And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.*

17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

6¹ *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?*

² *By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*

³ *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*

⁴ *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.*

⁵ *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

⁶ *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

⁷ *For one who has died has been set free from sin.*

⁸ *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

⁹ *We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.*

¹⁰ *For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.*

¹¹ *So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*