

# Our Union With Christ

## Cross of Christ - Lesson Four

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Jesus turned to the multitudes that were following Him and said, (Luke 9:23) *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.* This is what we are talking about. You will deny that old nature within you. Put it off! (Ephesians 4:22) *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.* It is filled with deceitful lusts and can produce every sin that this world has ever known; this is what the unsaved live in. The unregenerate live in all those sins of the sinful nature, but we are new creations in Christ Jesus - we are to live like that. This is the purpose for the cross of Christ.

### **Born Again, Crucified and United With Christ**

When we are born again we are born crucified, because that sinful nature was crucified with Christ. (Romans 6:6) *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.* When you are born again, you come out of the sinful nature that comes from Adam, and you are born into the righteous nature that only comes from Christ. This is our union with Christ. (1 Peter 1:23) *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.* This union with Christ will give us the power to be victorious over the nature of sin. (1 John 5:4, 18) *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.. (18) We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

We are born again when we are crucified with Christ. Jesus said, (John 3:5-6) *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* Being born of the water refers to water baptism. Jesus went to Calvary to give us His blood to redeem us, (Colossians 1:14) *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.* He also gives us His name to be buried/baptized into, (Acts 2:38) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

When we are baptized into the name of Jesus Christ, we are united and crucified with Him. We repent and we die to our sins. In baptism is where we take on the family name, and this is where the blood of Christ is applied to us for redemption. Now that we are born of the water and the blood of Christ is applied, all of our sins and the nature of sin is completely washed away. We are now crucified with Christ to be united with Him and to be reborn in His righteousness. (Romans 6:3) *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

### **Sanctification of the Spirit**

Being born of the Spirit is referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was crucified, not only to give us His blood and name, but also His Spirit to keep us living in this new life. (Romans 8:10) *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.* Born again is being crucified and united with Christ, (Romans 6:5) *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*

As we have received the name of Christ we must not dishonor the family name. The Scriptures tell us to live a life that honors Christ. (1 Peter 1:2) *Elect according to the*

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foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

The Spirit of Christ in us sanctifies us! It is the Holy Spirit in us that puts holiness within us! It is the Holy Spirit that puts the love of Christ in us! But if you continue to live in sin, then the Holy Spirit cannot do that. That is why Paul said, (Romans 6:1) **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?** No! We died to sin at the cross. We are crucified with Christ so that we can walk in a new life, Romans 6:2-7.

Now, the Holy Spirit can sanctify us, because of our union with Christ. As we are called into the body of Christ, we are called to live a holy life and be obedient to the Word of God. To do this we need the help of the Spirit. (1 John 4:4) **Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.** It is the Spirit of God that is greater than the nature of sin. God's Spirit in us will give us the power to live a holy life. That is why Christ went to Calvary, to redeem us with His blood, give us the family name, and give us the Holy Spirit to keep us walking in righteousness.

### Our Death Identification With Christ

(Romans 6:1-4) **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

Every time we see in the Scriptures "into his death" that means the cross. When the Word says that "we are buried with him by baptism" means that we are united with Christ through repentance and baptism in His name. We die to sin and are buried with Him in the waters of baptism. This is being crucified with Christ. And baptism in His name is to be identified with Him. This is our death identification with Christ.

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(Romans 6:5-8) **For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin. (8) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.**

As we have been united with Christ's death through repentance and baptism, we also can be united with the resurrection of Christ. The only way someone can live with Christ, he must first die with Christ. We go to Calvary, not only to die with Christ, but also to live with Him. (Colossians 2:12) **Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

Our union with Christ becomes complete when we are filled with His Spirit. (Romans 8:10-11) **And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.** Now we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This is the purpose of the cross. For us to have a way to be completely united us with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

From "The Purpose of the Cross of Christ" by B.J. Nutter, adapted by Mark J. Starin.

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