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Class Summary: This lesson continues from the previous lesson by focusing on the benefits that every believer receives at the moment of salvation in Christ.

God Says I am In Christ

“The concept of being united to Christ speaks of the most vital spiritual intimacy that one can imagine between the Lord and his people...they are so intimately identified with him and he with them that Scripture says they are united – he is in them and they are in him...United to his people in this way, Christ acts as their representative and substitute; that is, that which Christ has accomplished on behalf of his people God reckons to have counted for them, just as if they had done it themselves...union with Christ is the matrix out of which all other soteriological doctrines flow.”¹

Four Metaphors for Union with Christ:

1. We are God's _____ (Eph. 2:19-22)

2. We are the _____ of his _____ (John 15:4-5)

3. We are the _____ of Christ (Eph. 5:22-33)

4. We are the _____ of which he is the _____ (Eph. 5:23)

¹ MacArthur, John & Mayhue, Richard. *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*, Crossway, Jan. 31, 2017.

Three things to look for:

1. How does this truth relate to my union in Christ?
2. How is this, or is this actually a positional truth – something that is true whether or not I know it, understand it, believe it, apprehend, appreciate it, or live it out?
3. How does this truth follow from the other truths already discussed?

1. Because I am in Christ, God says I will not be _____

- Rom 8:1

- 1 Cor 3:14-15

2. Because I am in Christ, God says I am _____ by _____ and the _____

- Rom 8:10-11

- 2 Cor 13:5

3. Because I am in Christ, God says I am _____ with the _____

- Eph 1:13-14

- 2 Cor 1:21-22

4. Because I am in Christ, God says I am _____ as his _____

- Rom 8:14-17

- Eph 1:5

5. Because I am in Christ, God says I am a _____ of _____

- Phil 3:20

- Heb 11:16

6. Because I am in Christ, God says I am a _____ with _____
to the throne of grace

- Rev 1:5-6

- Heb 4:16

7. Because I am in Christ, God says I have an _____ and an _____

- Rom 8:26-27

- Heb 7:25

8. Because I am in Christ, God says I have been _____ like Christ

- 1 Corinthians 1:2

- 1 Corinthians 6:11

9. Because I am in Christ, God says I will be _____ like Christ

- Rom 8:30

- Phil 3:20-21

10. Because I am in Christ, God says I have _____ regarding my _____

- Rom 8:31-39

- John 10:28-29

First: consider as individuals, and then in groups. How does positional truth and our union with Christ relate to this situation?

a) You are exhorting Mark, a Christian who wants to share the gospel with others but is worried about what others may think.

“I know that God’s opinion of me is what counts, but I’m still afraid of being mocked by my co-workers. Right now they all think I’m a pretty intelligent, rational individual, but if I bring up the gospel they might think I’m nuts.”

Consider Philippians 1:12-26

- b) You are rebuking Zane, who, though a Christian, has decided that it is acceptable for a Christian to have the values of the world in the realm of sex.

“Like, what Christians have always taught is really repressive and stifling – it’s unhealthy. Studies these days show that it’s important to explore and to not limit yourself in your sexuality.”

Consider 1 Corinthians 6:12-18

- c) You are exhorting Carmen and Megan, who, though Christians that have worked together in running a children’s ministry for many years, have now split into two different children’s ministries and have bad words for each other and grievance stories that they constantly repeat of how they were “wronged” by the other person.

Carmen: “You have no idea how she treated me. It didn’t matter that I had been in on this from the beginning, it didn’t matter that I had good ideas for changes we needed to make – she just treated me like dirt, like I was good for nothing but someone to order around.”

Megan: “I don’t understand how someone can suddenly grow so critical and condescending. Always picking at me, always whining about what she thought was wrong, from A to Z, I could never do anything right – according to her.”

Consider Philippians 2:1-4 and Philippians 4:1-3

- d) You are instructing Phyllis, a Christian who thinks that God intends to make her life comfortable and easy.

“I’m so glad that Jesus took care of all the hard work so that all I have to do is rest. He paved the way – I just walk on a smooth road. He suffered so that I can have glory – he took the pain, I get the gain!”

Consider Philippians 1:27-30 and Philippians 3:7-11