

DIRECTION 3

(THE KEY TO HOLY LIVING: UNION WITH CHRIST)

SUMMARY: You receive the qualifications (*discussed in chapter 2*) to enable you to keep the law of God out of the fullness of Christ, through fellowship with Him. In order to have this fellowship, you must be in union with Him. You must be in Christ, and Christ Himself must be in you. P. 39

INTRODUCTION:

THE KEY TO HOLY LIVING: "The Key to a holy life is union with Christ." PP. 39, 40

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF SANCTIFICATION: This mystery is so great that we commonly think that we must get a "holy frame by producing it anew in ourselves, and by forming and working it out of our own hearts." p. 21 (*Revised:* "Now that you are in union with Christ, he begins to impart his godly nature to you. In other words, you do not produce a godly nature yourself, out of yourself. Rather, you take it to yourself by receiving it from Christ. Through fellowship with him, you begin to receive that holy frame of mind which is in Christ Himself. This is such a great mystery, it is difficult to understand." P. 39)

THE KEY ERROR CHRISTIANS FALL INTO: "...they think that even though they have been justified by a righteousness produced totally by Christ, they must be sanctified by a holiness produced totally by themselves." PP. 39-40

THREE MYSTICAL UNIONS THAT ARE THE CHIEF MYSTERIES IN RELIGION:

- A. THE BELIEVER'S UNION WITH CHRIST (cf., John 6:56; 14:20; 1 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 5:30, 31; This union is also illustrated by the union between God the Father and Christ (John 14:20; 17:21, 22, 23; between the vine and its branches (John 15:4, 5); between the head and body (Eph. 1:22, 23); between the bread and the eater (John 6:51, 53, 54). It is not only resembled, but sealed in the Lord's Supper...) P. 40
- B. THE UNION OF THE TRINITY OF PERSONS IN ONE GODHEAD, P. 40
- C. THE UNION OF THE DIVINE AND HUMAN NATURES IN ONE PERSON, JESUS CHRIST, GOD AND MAN, P. 40

PROPOSITION: CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING 6 WAYS THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES THE TRUTH OF UNION WITH CHRIST:

LESSON:

- I. SOME BIBLE TEXTS PLAINLY EXPRESS YOUR UNION WITH CHRIST (Col. 1:19; 2:11, 12, 13; Col. 3:10, 11; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:3; 1 Cor. 1:30; 6:17; John 1:16, 17; 1 John 1:3, 5, 6, 7) pp. 41-42
 - A. SOME TEXTS SHOW THAT ALL ASPECTS OF YOUR SALVATION ARE TREASURED UP FOR YOU IN CHRIST AND HIS FULLNESS (COL. 1:19; 2:11-13; EPH. 1:1-3FF; 1 COR. 1:30), PP. 41-42
 - B. OTHER BIBLE PASSAGES SHOW THAT YOU RECEIVE YOUR HOLINESS OUT OF CHRIST'S FULLNESS BY FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM (JOHN 1:16-17; 1 JOHN 1:3-7), P. 42
 - C. OTHER BIBLE PASSAGES SHOW DIRECTLY THAT NOT ONLY ARE YOUR SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS MADE READY FIRST IN CHRIST FOR YOU, AND RECEIVED IN CHRIST, BUT THAT YOU RECEIVE THEM BY UNION WITH CHRIST (COL. 3:10-11; 1 COR. 6:17; GAL. 2:20; JOHN 5:11-12), P. 42

- II. GOD ALSO ILLUSTRATES ONE'S SANCTIFICATION THROUGH UNION WITH CHRIST WITH A VARIETY OF ILLUSTRATIONS, TO PUT ALL DOUBT ASIDE TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND IT. PP. 42-43
 - A. THE FATHER'S LIFE GIVING LIFE IN CHRIST, JN. 6:57
 - B. THE FEDERAL HEADSHIP OF ADAM/CHRIST, ROM. 5:12-21
 - C. CHRIST AS HEAD OF THE BODY, COL. 2:19
 - D. THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES, JN. 15:1-7
 - E. WIFE BEARING CHILDREN, ROM. 7:4
 - F. THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE AND LIVING STONES, 1 PET. 2:4-6
 - G. EATING BREAD AND DRINKING WINE, JN. 6:51-57

- III. THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S INCARNATION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION WAS TO CREATE A HOLY NATURE FOR THE BELIEVER THROUGH HIMSELF. PP. 43-44
- A. IN HIS INCARNATION, JESUS BECAME A MAN WHO WAS COMPLETELY HOLY. PP. 43-44
- B. IN HIS DEATH, CHRIST FREED HIMSELF FROM THE GUILT OF SIN THAT WAS IMPUTED TO HIM. P. 44
1. CHRIST DIED SO THAT YOU MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD BY FAITH, AND NOT BY YOUR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH COMES FROM THE LAW (ROMANS 10:4-6; PHILIPPIANS 3:9), P. 44
 2. CHRIST ALSO DIED SO THAT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN YOU AS YOU WALK ACCORDING TO HIS SPIRIT AS ONE WHO IS IN CHRIST (ROMANS 8:3-4), P. 44
- C. IN HIS RESURRECTION, CHRIST TOOK POSSESSION OF SPIRITUAL LIFE FOR YOU- HE EARNED IT AND PROCURED IT FOR YOU BY THE MERIT OF HIS DEATH (NOTE: ALSO ADD BY THE MERIT OF HIS LIFE) P. 45
- IV. OUR SANCTIFICATION IS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BY WHOM WE LIVE AND WALK IN HOLINESS. pp. 45-46
- V. REMEMBER WHAT I HAVE SAID TO YOU SO FAR. (NOTE: THIS IS A GREAT SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS 1-3 IN THE FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF POINT 5 ON P. 46)
- VI. YOU MIGHT WONDER HOW BELIEVERS WHO LIVED BEFORE THE COMING OF CHRIST COULD POSSIBLY BE IN UNION WITH CHRIST. pp. 47-48

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