

Day One: #5 You Are One With Christ (2)

There's no point trying to intellectually understand the fact that we are one with Christ. Our minds will never really get around it. We simply receive it by faith through His grace, refusing to put limitations on God or what we will believe to be possible.

If we allow ourselves to become offended by the glorious truth that He is trying to reveal in us, we will not only limit Him, but we will also limit the work that He wants to accomplish on this earth, because He does it through us. The challenge is that every time He reveals something about our identity, we tend to view ourselves as separate from Him and therefore we can't accept that anything glorious He says could possibly be true of us. Yet if we will keep the truth in mind and view our spirits as being absolutely one with Him and our identity being who He is in us, then we can receive the limitless and amazing revelations that He shares with us about who we actually became when we received Him into our lives. And yes, that can only be possible because we are one with Him.

When we've made statements in our Christian life about "Who He is in us, or "Who we are in Christ," we may not have realised the magnitude of what we were actually saying. Or that actually these are not just two different ways to say the same thing but rather are two different sides of the same coin. Both of these aspects of our oneness with Christ are true and are incredibly exciting!

There's a scripture in Song of Songs which gives a good glimpse into what those two aspects are, and the distinctions between each, even though they both lead to the truth that we are one with Christ.

The Shulamite Bride represents us, and the Bridegroom-King represents Jesus. The Shulamite has just been looking for her Bridegroom-King outside of herself when she suddenly realizes that she no longer sees herself as separate from Him. In fact, she realizes that He is dwelling within her, in the secret place of her heart. And look at what she says:

Song of Songs 6:3 (TPT) He is within me – I am His garden of delight. <u>I have</u> Him fully and now He fully has me!



Wow, what does it mean to fully have Christ? And for Him to fully have us? This is what we're about to look at it, though I suspect that as everything to do with our magnificent Jesus goes, we'll spend the rest of our lives trying to plumb the depths of it and still not come close to seeing the full picture. But hey, let's start where we are and trust Him to continue revealing truth to us.



Him to 'fully have you' (who you are in Christ)?								

Please note: A great foundation to the concept of oneness with Christ Jesus can also be found in the devotionals for the *One Heart* message (preached at the 2014 One Heart Women's Retreat). These devotionals are available online as PDF devotionals at: www.oneheart.net.au/2014-devotionals-his-heart/



Day Two: #5 You Are One With Christ (3)

Who Christ is in us

"I have Him fully."

Galatians 2:20 (TPT) ...And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives his life through me – we live in union as one! My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of God who loves me so much that he gave himself for me, and dispenses his life into mine!

Wow! The Victorious One who has never failed at anything He has ever put His hand to, now lives through me! Do I believe this to be a literal fact, which has forever altered my identity? Absolutely! I believe He is literally in those of us who believe right now, through Holy Spirit coming to living in our hearts when we accepted Jesus. Holy Spirit didn't just bring a little piece of Jesus to live in our hearts – He brought all of Him!

What we may not have realised is that He actually brought our life with Him, too! Because after all, before Jesus came to live in our hearts, we may have been walking and talking, but spiritually speaking we were dead because it's God Himself Who IS life. In fact in Genesis, the word translated 'death' actually means 'separation' or 'disconnection'. Adam and Eve died when their spirits were separated from God – from their life source - so when our spirits are connected with God through Christ Jesus, we come alive.

John 14:19 (AMP) ...because I live, you will live also.

1 John 4:13 (MSG) ... He's given us life from his life, from his very own spirit.

The Bible actually says in Colossians 3:3 that our real life is hidden with Christ. So when Jesus comes to live in us, we actually get to start living the life that He created us to live!

And the coolest part about that is that we actually get to live it through the fullness of His life 'dispensed into mine'. Imagine a tap which has been turned on and the water can flow freely. This is a picture of the life of Christ flowing through us and unless we turn the tap off (which we can choose to, but why would we want to?), we get to not only come alive, but also live our lives



through the powerful, unwavering, victorious life of Christ that is within us! When we have Him fully, how can we ever fail? No one can limit who He is in us, except ourselves. His spirit is completely one with our spirit, and it's up to us to allow this powerful life to flow through our soul and our body to the world around us. This must have been what the Bridegroom-King (representative of Jesus) was seeing when He said of His Shulamite Bride:

Song of Songs 7:2 (TPT) Out of your innermost being is flowing the fullness of My Spirit – never failing to satisfy.

Song of Songs 5:1 (TPT) My life within her, will now become your feast.

This is what His life in us is intended to do – satisfy the world around us by bringing solutions to problems and answers to needs that only His love, His life and His wisdom can solve. The world is longing for our innermost beings to flow with the fullness of His Spirit. When we carry Him completely within us (Song of Songs 8:2), the world is nurtured and blessed.

Do you realise that this means that whatever is true of Jesus is true of you (your spirit) right now? After all, the Bible tells us:

1 John 4:17 (KJV) ... as he is, so are we in this world.

We are the ones who carry Him within us to a hurting world. So whatever He is, that's who we are. The world can't look directly at Jesus any more. They can only look at us – but when we carry Him fully within us, they won't even know the difference!



The Anointed One lives His life through me. Ponder on that truth for a mome									
What does this mean to your life?									



Day Three: #5 You Are One With Christ (4)

Who We are in Christ

"And now He fully has me."

Of course, we are not 'in Christ' unless we choose to be. Our oneness with Him is only possible in reality when we choose Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It's at that point our spirit is changed, and we become one with His Spirit. For Him to fully have us, we must be fully submitted to Him in every way... we must be willing to allow the life of Christ to flow from our spirit and through our soul (mind, will and emotions) and our body. We are only truly 'in Christ'... He only ever 'fully has me'... when we've given our whole spirit, soul and body to His leadership. When we do that, we know He can direct us anywhere and we'll go. He can ask us to do anything, and we'll do it, because we love Him so much. This way, we get to be His body on this earth. We get to see His miracles flow through our hands. We get to walk around in His righteousness. We get to represent Him to the earth as He places us within Himself in what He is accomplishing in this world.

We could spend more time looking into what that really means – being His body on this earth, and being fully submitted to Him. But I actually want to take this study into a slightly different direction – one you may not have heard before, yet it is immensely beautiful! Because while Christ brings something incredible to our lives... He also believes we bring something incredible to His!

He is Blessed by Us

Believe it or not, there are many references in the Bible on how our lives bring blessing to Jesus' life. It sounds ridiculous that we could give Him anything that would bless Him, yet when we think about it, don't our children bring blessing to our lives? They bring us joy as they try and stumble, as we see our image reflected in them, and as they offer their wholehearted love to us. Such things bring a richness to our lives that nothing else could match. Why would this not also be the same for our Jesus, and our Father God, in whose image we have been created?



We see the beautiful love story in the Song of Songs, where the Shulamite allows His life to flow through her... and we see that her life also blesses His. Consider these words by the Bridegroom-King:

Song of Songs 7:5 – 7 (TPT) Even a King is held captive by your beauty! How delicious your fair beauty, it cannot be described. As I count the delights you bring to Me – love has become the greatest!

Song of Songs 4:10 (TPT) Your love is My finest wine...

Song of Songs 4:9 (TPT) For <u>you reach into My heart</u>. With one flash of your eyes I am undone by your love, My beloved one, <u>My equal</u>, My bride. You leave me breathless – I am overcome by merely a glace from your worshipping eyes and you have stolen My heart.

These words are said of your Bridegroom (Jesus) to you. It's how He sees you! Can you imagine Jesus held captive by your beauty? The beauty that He sees as His life flows through you and you yield yourself and your love to Him?

Yet we haven't even heard it all yet. If you've found those few scriptures hard to believe of how Jesus sees you, just wait until you read the ones I'm saving for tomorrow!



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Day Four: #5 You Are One With Christ (5)

So we've seen yesterday that who we are actually blesses and gives to Jesus, and this is part of what it means when we talk about 'who we are in Christ.' Some of those scriptures were almost unbelievable. Yet, I've saved the best for last. These ones are the real 'kickers':

Song of Songs 4:15 (TPT) <u>Your life flows into Mine</u> pure as a garden spring. A well of living water springs up from within you. <u>You are like a mountain brook flowing into My heart!</u>

Did He just say what I think He said?!?! That our life flows INTO His?!?! That we can actually flow into HIS heart?!?!?! He has been called living water for the world. Now He likens us to living water which nourishes Him?!?!? Incredible! He is so blessed by our hearts of love towards Him, and by our allowing His life to flow through us that it actually nourishes Him!

Song of Songs 5:1 (TPT) <u>I have gathered from your heart</u>, My equal, My bride. I have gathered from My garden all My sacred spices... <u>I have tasted and enjoyed</u> My wine within you.

For Him to gather something from our hearts... He is saying we actually give something to Him. It's not all a one-way street! He gives us life, He gives us identity, and when we fully have Him and we allow His life to flow through us, He actually receives something from us that blesses and nourishes Him!

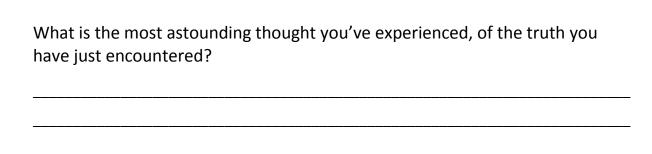
He loves it when His life flows through us. But this is how extraordinarily good He is... even when we've held back part of ourselves... even before we've been saved (!?!?!?!) we bring blessing to Him. Weren't we told in the Bible that it was for the joy that was set before Him that Christ endured the cross? He did that for the unsaved! There was joy even for their sakes (and ours... we too were unsaved until we chose Him), because He delighted to make a way for them. It would be no different to the joy we experience in our babies, well before they ever had the chance to demonstrate love back to us.

And if we're still not convinced that we bless Him, let's remember that Jesus considers us to be the jewels in His crown (Zech 9:16), and that He delights in us (Isa 42:1), and that our prosperity brings Him delight (Ps 35:27 & Deut 30:9),



and that the words of our mouth bring blessing to Him (James 3:9). And we could find example after example more. But let's instead look at how this goes even deeper. Not only do we bless us, but He also actually carries us within Him.

Soak Time





Day Five: #5 You Are One With Christ (6)

He Carries Us Within Him

Ultimately, it's about the fact that He lives in our hearts... and we live in His! After all, He can't even see Himself on this planet without us! To Jesus we are, quite literally, His body on this earth. Talk about carrying us within Him!

Ephesians 2:5 (TPT) Even when we were dead and doomed in our many sins, <u>he</u> united us into the very life of Christ and saved us by his wonderful grace!

Ephesians 1:4 (TPT) And he chose us to be his very own, <u>joining us to himself</u> even before he laid the foundation of the universe! Because of his great love, <u>he ordained us as one with Christ from the beginning</u>, so that we would be seen as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence.

Let's stop and think about just how much He sees us as a part of Himself. Jesus spoke to His disciples before He left this earth (regarding all who would ever believe in Him), of how He saw us as one with Him, in the very same way that He and God are one. In fact, this was His final prayer before He left this earth (outside of His personal prayers for strength in the Garden of Gethsemane).

John 17:21 (MSG) The goal is for <u>all of them to become one</u> heart and mind – <u>just as you, Father, are in me and I in you</u>, so they might be <u>one heart and mind</u> with us...

So the oneness that Jesus likened us to is the same oneness between God and Himself, where God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God. He prayed that we would be one them... in other words in the very same way as they were one – us in Christ and Christ in us. Verse 22 goes on to say, 'The same glory you gave me, I gave them, so they'll be AS unified and together as we are...' (MSG...emphasis mine).

I think it's safe to say that Jesus never goes anywhere without us. He's prayed that our oneness would be just like His and God's, He's told us we're seated in heavenly places with Him (Eph 2:6); He carries an image of us printed on the palm of His hands (Isa 49:16), He intercedes for us continually day and night and His thoughts about us number even more than the sand (Ps 139:17-18).



As David asks in Psalm 139, 'Where could I go from Your Spirit?' (AMP). In fact, there is nowhere we could possibly go where He is not, and there is nowhere that He could possibly go where we are not, because He is in us and we are in Him. If He took us to the cross... if He was resurrected with us... if we are now seated together (on His very throne) in the heavenly places, surely we must know that we truly are one with Him and we can never be separated from Him.

Romans 8:39 (NIV) ...neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I don't think there's any more beautiful picture of what it means to have Him live in our hearts but also have us live in His, than the testimony of Jesus Culture singer Kim Walker-Smith. She'd wanted to ask Jesus what He was thinking when He created her, and so in a vision He took her to heaven to give her the answer to that question. He showed her how the Father had taken a piece out of His own heart and had formed her tenderly and created her to worship and dance and sing. He showed her how much He and the Father just enjoyed her so much and were blessed every time she worshipped, sang and danced as she has been created to do.

Then, He showed her that the Father took her and placed her back inside His heart... and she fit perfectly into the hole that was there, from when He'd torn out a part of His heart to create her. What a beautiful picture of how we carry His life completely within us... and He carries us completely within Him! He lives in our hearts, yes... and we also live in His.



you?							