

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

United with Christ

Romans 6:3-11

Additional passages: 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 2:1-10, 2 Peter 1:3-9

Introduction: John talked about the impact of being united with Christ, how our status changes from condemned sinner to justified saint. In Christ, we become a loved son or daughter in God's family. John also talked about our ongoing battle with sin because of the remaining corruption in us: there is a gap between our practice and our position in Christ.

Key Questions (same as from Romans 6:1-3)

- What do you base your personal credibility on? Your status?
- Does your life regularly display joyful, humble confidence *because of who you are in Christ?*

Questions:

1. In Romans 6:3-4, Paul reminds us that water baptism is a physical expression of a spiritual reality: being united to Christ. How did John say we are united to Christ?
2. Pastor John noted a couple weeks ago that a theologian named John Owen said that the two hardest things for people to believe is that they are 1) Condemned Sinners and 2) Justified Saints. Why is it so important to believe and live in light of these two fundamental truths?
3. Based on Romans 6:5-10, what is true of your status in Christ?
4. Based on Romans 6:6-7, 11 what do we still struggle with this side of heaven?

John explained that the terms old self and body of sin in verse 6 describe the reality of our ongoing battle with sin because of remaining corruption in us. This corruption is the natural instincts of our pre-converted selves. The battle to grow in holiness is the battle to close the gap between our position in Christ and the actual practice of our lives.

John said to close the gap of godliness that exists between our position and practice, we must regard our union with Christ as true continually: we must regard as true "That you are dead to sin and alive to God because of your union with Christ. It is the truest reality about you. You belong to Christ now."

5. Why did John say regular Bible reading/personal time with God is important? How is it going with regularly reminding yourself of your new identity in Christ – with daily preaching the gospel to yourself?

6. What Bible verses/truths of Scripture help cement in you the truths of your new identity in Christ? (Take a look at the additional Scripture passages above)
7. How can we together remind each other of our true identity in Christ and help each other pursue growth in godliness?

Possible accountability time questions:

- Read 2 Peter 1:3-9. What basis does God give for confidence that we can grow in holiness in verses 3-4? What does God say has happened when we are not progressing in holiness in verse 9?
- When you are struggling with habitual sin, what are the well-worn paths of your thought life? How about your desires?
- When you are growing in holiness, what are the well-worn paths of your thought life? Desires? Habits?
- What do you find yourself turning to when you are convicted of your sin? Lots of hard work to make up for it? Or a heartfelt conviction of sin and desire to turn from it?