

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

2/18/18

Text: Romans 5:15-21 (ESV)

Title: Union with Christ

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim took us one more time through the passage in Romans 5 as he focused on our union with Christ. Just as we were united with Adam in his sin and death, so now we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. We tend to limit the scope of our salvation to merely Jesus offering us freedom from Hell, but the truth of the gospel is so much more than that. Contrary to the Radical Individualism of our modern society, God created us for relationship and for unity with others (Gen. 2:18). By being united to Christ, we not only have freedom from hell, we get to experience a new identity in Jesus, the abundance of God's never-ending resources, and the unity with Him in all of his joy and suffering. The amazing message of the Gospel from this passage is that when God looks at us, he sees his son Jesus! He sees our sin has been paid for on the cross and he looks at us with joy and delight, no longer holding any of our brokenness and sin against us. God the Father treats us on the basis of Jesus' performance, and we're invited to look at the people we're in community with, and do the same.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. Contrary to Radical Individualism, which has become the religion of our modern society, God created us to be in union and in community with other people. Even so, we seek autonomy in order to protect ourselves from hurting or being hurt by others.*
 - How have you convinced yourself (now or in the past) that staying private or individual was better for you?**
 - What is the greatest risk for you to be in union or community with others?**
- 2. As Tim said, we tend to limit our salvation to a transaction, Jesus getting us out of hell. But the fullness of our salvation is getting to be united in relationship with Him, our Bridegroom, giving us access to his resources, his identity and his love for us.*
 - How has your salvation been mostly defined in terms of your forgiveness and freedom from hell?**
 - What's missing from a relationship that's only focused on forgiveness?**
- 3. When God the Father looks at us, he sees his son Jesus, and smiles. He treats us on the basis of Jesus' performance, and we're invited to look at one another and do the same.*
 - Who are the hardest people you have to relate to?**
 - What would it be like to treat them on the basis of Jesus' performance, rather than theirs?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION (The Father)

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION (Me)

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community (My Neighbor)

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty for His power over sin and death that He has proven in Christ. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He loves us enough to come save us from every threat or peril.*
- 2. How have you lived in rebellion, like Adam, fighting God's boundaries and seeking to be a law unto yourself? Confess your pride to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you, to cleanse you, and to give you a new heart in union with Him.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for the unheard of gift of taking your failures to guarantee that you enjoy His successes. Thank Him for removing your guilt and for keeping the Father's design to free you to be whole and obedient.*
- 4. Who do you know that is insecure? Ask the Father to give them a sense of security through being united with Christ. Ask for what Romans 5 promises – no condemnation, righteousness, and eternal life.*
- 5. Where are you fearful? Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of joy at Jesus' triumph over sin and death. Ask Him to convince you that if He can defeat these ultimate threats, then surely He can help you to not fear what threatens you.*