
Sermon Text Discussion Notes 4/29/2018

Colossians 1:24-29 - "Christ Is In Us And We Are In Christ" by Eric Bobbitt

Overview

What do I believe is true about me? What is my worth? Do I have the ability to change? What is my capacity for good? These questions (and more) are different ways of asking an even larger question: Who am I? The biblical truth regarding a believer's union with Christ provides the framework for answering this age-old question when considering the following statements:

- 1) Union with Christ clarifies and strengthens my identity
- 2) A believer is in Christ, and Christ is in the believer
- 3) Identity in Christ comes more clearly into view and practice when we understand and experience that we are united in Christ

Our society says we have a hidden inner self that will only flourish outside of external authority and expectations. But the Word reminds us that our true identity before God is based on these biblical truths regarding our union with Christ.

Quotations

"Union with Christ is that intimate, vital, and spiritual union between Christ and his people by which He is the source of their life and strength, of their blessedness and salvation." –Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*

"If you are in Christ this is now the defining truth of who you are. Your life, your story becomes enfolded by another story – Another's story. That's one way to define faith: faith means finding your identity in Christ." –Rankin Wilbourne, *Union With Christ*

Understanding & Application

- 1) What functional truths do you believe about yourself that primarily shape your identity?
- 2) What does Scripture say is a believer's identity in Christ? How does the doctrine of a believer's union with Christ form the basis of this question? Use Scripture to support each of your answers.
- 3) The phrase "in Christ" or "in Him" is used by Paul 164 times in his New Testament letters. Given Paul's emphasis through repetition, how can we do better to apply this truth to our hearts and minds?
- 4) Those who are in Christ are united with Him in death (Rom 6:3), burial (Rom 6:4), resurrection (Col 3:1), ascension (Eph 2:6), lordship (II Tim 2:12), and glory (Rom 8:17). Read, reflect, and apply each of these verses to your walk with Christ today.
- 5) There are three metaphors used to describe our union with Christ: marriage (Eph 5:31-32), adoption (Rom 8:15-16), and the vine & branch (John 14-15). Which do you find most impactful and why?