

United With Christ

(Being part of a new environment)

I. The Concept

A. We must understand the words of Christ there in John 14: 1-20

Jesus Is the Way to the Father -- Jesus said to his disciples, "Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. ² There are **many rooms** in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. ³ After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together. ⁴ You know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said, "Lord, we don't even know where you are going! How can we know the way?" ⁶ **"I am the way, the truth, and the life!"** Jesus answered. **"Without me, no one can go to the Father.** ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known the Father. But from now on, you do know him, and you have seen him." ⁸ Philip said, "Lord, **show us the Father. That is all we need.**" ⁹ Jesus replied: Philip, I have been with you for a long time. Don't you know who I am? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. How can you ask me to show you the Father? ¹⁰ **Don't you believe that I am one with the Father and that the Father is one with me?** What I say isn't said on my own. The Father who lives in me does these things. ¹¹ Have faith in me when I say that the Father is one with me and that I am one with the Father. Or else have faith in me simply because of the things I do. ¹² I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, **you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father.** ¹³ Ask me, and I will do whatever you ask. This way the Son will bring honor to the Father. ¹⁴ I will do whatever you ask me to do. **The Holy Spirit Is Promised** ¹⁵ Jesus said to his disciples: If you love me, you will do as I command. ¹⁶ Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help^[b] you and always be with you. ¹⁷ **The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.** ¹⁸ I won't leave you like orphans. I will come back to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the people of this world won't be able to see me, but you will see me. And because I live, you will live. ²⁰ Then you will know that I am one with the Father. You will know that you are one with me, and I am one with you.

- It is Christ and Christ alone that unify (join or merge) us.

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J. The Concept

- We must understand the words of Christ there in John 14: 1-20

B. Our ultimate goal is to be more like Christ today than we were yesterday.

- **In our heavenly calling --- Philipians 3:14 -- ¹⁰ All I want is to know Christ and the power that raised him to life. I want to suffer and die as he did, ¹¹ so that somehow I also may be raised to life. ¹² I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. ¹³ My friends, I don't feel that I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. ¹⁴ I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done. ¹⁵ All of us who are mature should think in this same way. And if any of you think differently, God will make it clear to you. ¹⁶ But we must keep going in the direction that we are now headed.**

○ In forgiveness

- Ephesian 1:7; Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free, which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because God was so kind to us.
- **4:32; ²⁵ We are part of the same body. Stop lying and start telling each other the truth. ²⁶ Don't get so angry that you sin. Don't go to bed angry ²⁷ and don't give the devil a chance. ²⁸ If you are a thief, quit stealing. Be honest and work hard, so you will have something to give to people in need. ²⁹ Stop all your dirty talk. Say the right thing at the right time and help others by what you say. ³⁰ Don't make God's Spirit sad. The Spirit makes you sure that someday you will be free from your sins. ³¹ Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. ³² **Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.****

- Col 1:14 -⁹ We have not stopped praying for you since the first day we heard about you. In fact, we always pray that God will show you everything he wants you to do and that you may have all the wisdom and understanding that his Spirit gives. ¹⁰ Then you will live a life that honors the Lord, and you will always please him by doing good deeds. You will come to know God even better. ¹¹ His glorious power will make you patient and strong enough to endure anything, and you will be truly happy. ¹² I pray that you will be grateful to God for letting you have part in what he has promised his people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ **God rescued us from the dark power of Satan and brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who forgives our sins and sets us free.**

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In our heavenly calling --- Philippians 3:1
In forgiveness

- **Free from condemning one another Romans 8:1 -- 8 If you belong to Christ Jesus, you won't be punished. ² The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you^[a] free from sin and death. ³ The Law of Moses cannot do this, because our selfish desires make the Law weak. But God set you free when he sent his own Son to be like us sinners and to be a sacrifice for our sin. God used Christ's body to condemn sin. ⁴ He did this, so that we would do what the Law commands by obeying the Spirit instead of our own desires.**
- C. It is in Christ that we are
- **Sanctified** 1 Cor. 1:2 -- ² **NIV** To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:
Cev To God's church in Corinth. Christ Jesus chose you to be his very own people, and you worship in his name, as we and all others do who call him Lord.

- **Rooted and built up** Col 2:7 -- ⁶You have accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord. Now keep on following him. ⁷Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation for your life. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught. And be grateful. ⁸Don't let anyone fool you by using senseless arguments. These arguments may sound wise, but they are only human teachings. They come from the powers of this world^[a] and not from Christ.
- **Taught** Eph 4:21 -- ¹⁷As a follower of the Lord, I order you to stop living like stupid (**unintelligent**), godless people. ¹⁸Their minds are in the dark, and they are stubborn and ignorant and have missed out on the life that comes from God. They no longer have any feelings about what is right, ¹⁹and they are so greedy that they do all kinds of indecent things. ²⁰⁻²¹But that isn't what you were taught about Jesus Christ. He is the truth, and you heard about him and learned about him. ²²You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. ²³Let the Spirit change your way of thinking ²⁴and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy.
 - **Guarded Phil 4:7 -- Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!** ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
 - **Led in victory 2 Cor. 2:14 --** ¹⁴Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. ¹⁵For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: ¹⁶To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.
 - **And have boldness and access to God** Eph 3:12 –

¹²In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. ¹³Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. ¹⁴For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵Of whom the whole family in heaven

and earth is named, ¹⁶That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. ²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, ²¹Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

D. How did or do we get in this New Environment

1 Corinthians 12:12 & 13 - The Holy Spirit has baptized us here through the NEW BIRTH PROCESS. ¹²For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

¹³For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

E. Does the fact that we are here in this new environment by way of the baptizing of the Holy Spirit guarantees us power?

- Gal 3:27 – The baptism of the Holy Spirit was the PUTTING ON of Christ, like putting on new clothes ²⁶All of you are God’s children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes.²⁸Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other, whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman.
- Gal 1: 1-6 – But new clothes don’t always mean we act new all the time. I am shocked that you have so quickly turned from God, who chose you because of his wonderful kindness.^[a] You have believed another message,

Gal 4:9 – There is and will be a temptation to go backwards. Before you knew God, you were slaves of gods that are not real. ⁹ But now you know God, or better still, God knows you. How can you turn back and become the slaves of those weak and pitiful powers?^[a] ¹⁰ You even celebrate certain days, months, seasons, and years. ¹¹ I am afraid I have wasted my time working with you.

¹² My friends, I beg you to be like me, just as I once tried to be like you. Did you mistreat me ¹³ when I first preached to you? No you didn't, even though you knew I had come there because I was sick. ¹⁴ My illness must have caused you some trouble, but you didn't hate me or turn me away because of it. You welcomed me as though I were one of God's angels or even Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵ Where is that good feeling now? I am sure that if it had been possible, you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Am I now your enemy, just because I told you the truth?

¹⁷ Those people may be paying you a lot of attention, but it isn't for your good. They only want to keep you away from me, so you will pay them a lot of attention. ¹⁸ It is always good to give your attention to something worthwhile, even when I am not with you. ¹⁹ My children, I am in terrible pain until Christ may be seen living in you. ²⁰ I wish I were with you now. Then I would not have to talk this way. You really have me puzzled.

F. This New Environment came and comes only by SEPARATION FROM SIN. Death is the means in which God chooses to separate the two natures. Romans 6

What should we say? Should we keep on sinning, so that God's wonderful kindness will show up even better? ² **No, we should not!** If we are dead to sin, how can we go on sinning?³ Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptized also share in his death? ⁴ When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptized, so that we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

⁵ If we shared in Jesus' death by being baptized, we will be raised to life with him. ⁶ We know that the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done, so that our sinful bodies would no longer be the slaves of sin. ⁷ We know that sin doesn't have power over dead people.

⁸ As surely as we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that death no longer has any power over Christ. He died and was raised to life, never again to die.¹⁰ When Christ died, he died for sin once and for all. But now he is alive, and he lives only for God. ¹¹ In the same way,

you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God.

¹² **Don't let sin rule your body.** After all, your body is bound to die, so don't obey its desires ¹³ or let any part of it become a slave of evil. Give yourselves to God, as people who have been raised from death to life. Make every part of your body a slave that pleases God. ¹⁴ Don't let sin keep ruling your lives. You are ruled by God's kindness and not by the Law.

Slaves Who Do What Pleases God

¹⁵ What does all this mean? Does it mean we are free to sin, because we are ruled by God's wonderful kindness and not by the Law? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Don't you know that you are slaves of anyone you obey? You can be slaves of sin and die, or you can be obedient slaves of God and be acceptable to him. ¹⁷ You used to be slaves of sin. But I thank God that with all your heart you obeyed the teaching you received from me. ¹⁸ Now you are set free from sin and are slaves who please God.

¹⁹ I am using these everyday examples, because in some ways you are still weak. You used to let the different parts of your body be slaves of your evil thoughts. But now you must make every part of your body serve God, so that you will belong completely to him.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you didn't have to please God. ²¹ But what good did you receive from the things you did? All you have to show for them is your shame, and they lead to death. ²² Now you have been set free from sin, and you are God's slaves. This will make you holy and will lead you to eternal life. ²³ Sin pays off with death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord.