

***United in Christ***  
April 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

***Ephesians 1:10***

*“...as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, ...”*

**Reflections on the importance of our union in Christ**

- ❖ We have every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ! *Ephesians 1:3*
  - f* The spiritual blessings flow into our lives only because of our union in Christ.
- ❖ We are chosen in Christ! *Ephesians 1:4*
  - f* The predetermined plan of God to adopt us into His family was accomplished in Christ.
- ❖ We have redemption in Christ! *Ephesians 1:7*
  - f* The freedom we now enjoy from the slavery of sin with its guilt and condemnation comes to us only in Christ.
- ❖ We have our union with Christ restored! *Ephesians 1:10*

“This union with Christ spans space and time – so that Paul can say that the Christian has died with Christ (Rom. 6:1-11; Gal. 2:20); the Christian has been resurrected with Christ (Eph. 2:5; Col. 3:1), the Christian has ascended with Christ to share now in His reign in the heavenly places (Rom. 5:17; Eph. 2:6), and the Christian is destined to share Christ’s coming glory with Him (Phil. 3:20; 1 Jn. 3:2).

No wonder some call our union with Christ one of the central messages of the New Testament.”<sup>1</sup>

**God’s plan is that one day all things in heaven and on earth will be united in Christ. *Ephesians 1:10***

- ❖ The disunity, disharmony, confusion, chaos, hatred, violence, prejudice, injustice, and brokenness we see in the world today are a result of mankind being separated from God.
  - 📖 Romans 1:18-32

“God’s appointed plan for the universe is to bring all things in heaven and in earth together, under one head. The goal of creation is neither chaos nor dis-harmony but unity, and the point of unity will be His anointed King.”<sup>2</sup>

- ❖ Reconciliation with God, which brings life transformation, only comes through Christ!

*Reconcile*: “[... The literal sense is to call back into union.] ... to restore friendship or favor after estrangement;...”<sup>3</sup>

📖 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

*f* The number one need of every man and woman is reconciliation with God!

*Psalm 51:12* “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”

*f* God gives us the ministry of reconciliation, which is then applied to...

... Healthy personal relationships which require maintenance by love and forgiveness.

*Ephesians 4:3* “[Be] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

... Healthy marriages which grow through love and respect.

*Ephesians 5:21* “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

... Healthy families that function as units with Christ and have His Word as the center of their lives.

*1 Corinthians 11:3 "But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God."*

... Healthy love for other ethnic races which is achieved through the finished work of Christ.  
*Acts 10:15 "And the voice came to him again a second time, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.'"*

❖ God will one day unite all things in Christ!

- ♦ One day people from all nations, who have been ransomed by the blood of Christ, will worship Jesus, the Lamb of God. *Isaiah 11:1-9; Revelations 21:4; Revelations 5:9-10*
- ♦ One day every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess, in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father. *Philippians 2:10-11*

***God will unite all things in Christ!***

*"...making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth."*  
*Ephesians 1:9-10*

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Kynes, Bill. "Union with Christ: The Sum of Our Salvation." *"Knowing & Doing"* Winter 2007. © 2007 C.S. Lewis Institute.

<sup>2</sup> Sproul, R. C. *The Purpose of God: Ephesians*. Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 1994. Print.

<sup>3</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

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