

if what Paul said in Galatians 2:20 is true.)

### CONCLUSION:

–When He left earth, Jesus did not stop His work. By the Holy Spirit, He indwells every believer. The Incarnation began in Palestine. Now, it’s all over the world, expanding to include all facets of human service.

When we enjoy His creation, so does He, for “all things were created by him and for him.... and in him all things hold together.” We are His servants in His creation and we must stand against the misuse of what He has created.

–Jesus lives in us—that’s our new understanding of who we are in our union with Him. “*But what about when I fail?*” We fail by obeying the ways of our old self instead of living as a “new creation” in Christ.

–Jesus living as us is a mystery parallel to that of earthly marriage– Eph 5:30-32, for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. Again, the heart of that mystery is this– Col 1:27, To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. This union life with Jesus needs to be your new way of looking at your Christian life.

46-06-02-Jesus Living As You

incarnation, union life, new birth, Eucharist

1 Cor 6:17

Jesus unites with us so that we can live out our true identity in Him.

### INTRODUCTION:

–There’s a key verse for successful *Christian living*, but few Christians explore it deeply, maybe because of its context– 1 Cor 6:17 (NIV), *But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.* [Lit. trans. (LITV): But the one being joined to the Lord is **one spirit**.] Think one spirit: one flesh.

–Context: Paul’s warning about misusing a *great mystery*: the power of human sexual relations to create a *one-flesh* union between a man and woman. God *intended* it to seal a marriage. But the marital relationship itself divinely illustrates a greater mystery: the marriage of Christ, the Bridegroom, to the Church, His Bride. The purpose is not just for our salvation, but for us to find our true selves. **HOM.idea**.

–This *physical* marital union is a crucial illustration of spiritual life in union with Christ– Gen 2:23-24 (NIV), The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. [BTW, 1<sup>st</sup> human poem].

–Now, a profound parallel: God created Eve from the side of a sleeping Adam. He birthed the Church from the side of His crucified Son, when He fell asleep in death. This explains the Incarnation—Gods Son, being made flesh. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, Jesus can now *legitimately say to the new humanity* of a believing Church, *His corporate Bride*: “bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh”—not a marriage proposal; a *marriage pronouncement!*

–That’s just background: God uses the *one-flesh* marital union to illustrate our *one-spirit* marital union with Jesus. But no illustration perfectly describes reality, so we’ll learn what we can from some of these descriptions, and then move on to look at the implications of *the reality*, which Paul describes in Col 1:27 as “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

–First, we’ll look at a few facets of the illustration...

## **I. How New Life in Christ Is Like an Earthly Marriage**

A. Once married, a couple remains *two people while being one* (as we are supposed to be in our one-spirit relationship with Christ).

1. Made in the image of the Trinity, it’s part of our nature that we

- can unite with others and be one, yet remain individual persons.
2. The two wills involved in marriage are meant to be beautifully complementary, but can be unpleasantly contradictory. [Watching couples argue isn't pleasant, is it? We expect to see *the beauty of unity*.]
- B. For a successful marriage depends on *communication* (just as our *one-spirit* relationship with Jesus depends on prayer).
1. Healthy communication is a two-way thing. (Listening is needed for unity, otherwise one person's will dominate the relationship.)
  2. *Silence* lets Jesus speak and us hear. (He uses Scripture, but may speak to us *about specifics* ["Lord, in this situation, what should I do?"].)
- C. Weddings pronounce of a new state: marriage. (It's not something we strive for becoming—we just are married).
1. We should strive for loving practices that strengthen our wedded lives, but the marriage is a reality even when if it's unhealthy.
  2. The Bible doesn't say, "Strive to be saved by Christ!" It says, "he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit." (We are saved! We're "new creatures in Christ." This union is our salvation!)
  3. But we still must work for a healthy marriage— Phil 2:12b-13, "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

**TRANS:** Now this is where I want to focus on one more major aspect of our *union with Christ* as to how marriage illustrates it. This moves us it bit closer to what our actual relationship with Jesus really is. And to introduce it, I want you to think of why Christ's Cross is called His Passion. Yes, it's about His love. But it's about His act of espousing a Bride, the Church. It paved the way for people who were strangers to God through sin to become intimate companions with God by union.

## II. The Purpose of the Incarnation Was Union With Us

- A. We are in union with the first Adam through his spiritual DNA:
1. We still have the image and likeness of God, but we inherit from our first father his sinful disconnection from God. (That's how humans are built—they bear the curses of previous family).
  2. From the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam, we inherit death and a separation from God.
- B. This situation in human history is the work of the devil, so God's Son did something: *the Incarnation*—He became one of us to take care of our problem— 1 John 3:8b, The reason the Son of God appeared was

to destroy the devil's work. (He did this by becoming a new Adam, so He could begin a whole new human race.)

1. When He died on the Cross, He didn't only pay for our sins, but put to death the old Adam's DNA He inherited from Mary.
  2. If we want our sins forgiven, we must be *in Christ*, but being in Christ means death to the old Adam. (Simultaneous events!)
- C. This was *Christ's passion on the Cross*: to pave the way for a new relationship with God, but also the way to make us new creatures.

**TRANS:** By placing our faith in Christ, we actually become located in Christ. Think of that whenever you see "in Christ" in reading the NT. But simultaneously, Christ, through the Holy Spirit, becomes located in us. And this sets up the possibility of living a one-spirit union life with Him. **Jesus unites with us so that we can live out our true identity in Him.** This is *holy ground!* This is *Jesus ground!* It's the way God's Son lived out the Incarnation, and this is the way we are to live.

## III. Union Life Is the Only Way to Live the Christian Life

- A. If you carefully study the creation story, you find that we were created to be servants.
1. When Jesus became human, He was our pattern for serving others, and we know this because He said, "Follow Me."
  2. But Jesus told us that He did not come to do His will as God, but to do His Father's will as a servant. (How do we do this?)
- B. Jesus showed us how— John 5:19, Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." / John 14:10, Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. (Jesus calls us to this same relationship.)
1. God's Son became human to reconnect us to the Father by living in union with Himself. (**Christ's** "I am in the Father, and... the Father is in me," is now our "*I am in Christ, and Christ is in me!*")
  2. The Apostle Paul lived and did his ministry this way— Gal 2:20, I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (*Jesus, living in us*, will tell us where to go, what to say, what to do. BUT not only in us, He will do it as us,