

Scriptures: Colossians 1:21 – 2:12

Singing: 261:1-3 – 166:1-6 – 427:6 – 81:1-4

Intro: Has John's testimony brought you to eternal life? (John 20:31)

A. Eternal is real life (John 17:3)

B. Eternal is received in believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (John 20:31)

THE UNION OF VINE & BRANCHES (2)

I. The Necessity of Union II. The implications of Union

II. The Implications of this spiritual and mystical union

A. Jesus is the true Vine: *He is the source of every fruit on the branches*

1. Are you looking for the fruit that glorifies the Father? (John 15:8)

2. Gospel: *godliness or Christlikeness* is **Christ's fruit** (John 15:5)

B. Yet the "Vine-Branches" union is more than the **guarantee for fruit**

1. The Vine-Branch analogy is one of God's analogy about the faith-union

a. the food/drink analogy (John 6:53-57)

b. the foundation/building analogy (Eph. 2:19-22)

c. the head/body analogy (Eph 4:15-16)

d. the husband/bride analogy (Eph. 5:30-32)

e. the vine/branches analogy (John 15)

2. The union of Christ and the believer is the **security of the Gospel**

a. Who is the Vine to which we by faith are united? (Gal. 26-27)

● Him in Whom all the fullness of God dwells bodily (Col. 2:9)

● Him in Whom pleased Father to have fullness dwell (Col. 1:19)

b. What does this Vine provide for the branches through this union?

● in Him we *are* clean (John 15:2) though we may *feel* unclean

● in Him we are holy, unblameable, unprovable in God's (!) sight (Col. 1:21-23)

3. Realizing this union as a poor and needy sinner with a rich and strong Christ is the secret of the joy Jesus gives (John 15:11)

C. What are a few of the implications of this Gospel truth?

1. That His account and my account have merged (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:1)
2. That His acceptance with the Father is my acceptance with Him (Eph. 1:4, 6; Rom. 5:10b; Col. 2:20 linked with Col. 1:21-22)
3. That therefore we can serve Him without fear (Luke 1:74-75)
4. That our salvation is secure (Romans 5: 20-21)

Close: *Brethren, don't live below your spiritual privileges!*

A sampling on 'union Scriptures'

I am crucified **with** Christ: nevertheless I live.
Yet not I, but Christ liveth **in** me;
And the life which I now live in the flesh,
I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved and gave Himself for me.
(Gal. 2:20)

Therefore we are buried **with** Him by baptism into death (Rom. 6:4)

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together **with** Christ,
(by grace ye are saved;)
And hath raised us up **together** and made us sit **together** in heavenly places
in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:5-6)