ONE SPIRIT WITH THE LORD

The Reality of Our Union with Christ



PASTOR DR. EMMANUEL MUKISA, D.D.

WOT PUBLISHING

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INTRODUCTION

The Life You Have Received

You can know that Christ saved you and still live as though He left you to supply the life He requires. You thank Him for the forgiveness of your sins, believe that you will be with Him in glory, and then face the present day from the same estimate of yourself you had before you received Him.

Paul gives you another account of yourself.

> "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."
>
> — 1 Corinthians 6:17

Hear what he says. Joined unto the Lord. One spirit.

This is the relationship God brought into being when you were born again. Christ is your life. His Spirit dwells in you. You belong to the Father as His child, born of Him and sharing His nature. Peter calls you a partaker of the divine nature. You belong to the God kind because God begat you.

Let that truth reach the way you understand yourself. You have received the life of the One to whom you are joined. Your fellowship with the Father, your obedience to His Word, and your service among His people all proceed from that life.

What Paul Means by One

The words are familiar enough to be repeated without their meaning being received. A person may read "one spirit" and hear only that he should agree with the Lord, love Him sincerely, and try to follow His example. Paul is speaking about something God has done to the person who belongs to Christ.

In the verse before it, he speaks of a man joined to a harlot as one body with her. Then he uses the same joining word concerning the believer and the Lord. The first joining has an actual bodily consequence; the second has an actual spiritual consequence. Paul's correction of conduct depends upon the reality of both.

You must give the second statement the same seriousness you give the first. The believer's union with Christ is real. Your life is now understood from Him.

That is why Paul can speak of the old man crucified with Christ, of our being made alive together with Him, and of our being raised and seated in Him. These statements describe our inclusion in the saving work of the Lord. The history of the One to whom we are joined determines what has become of us.

The Cross concerns the man we were in Adam. The resurrection concerns the life we now possess. The exaltation of Christ concerns the standing we have in Him. Each truth gives substance to the next.

The Life and the Knowledge of It

A believer may possess what he has scarcely understood. He may have received righteousness and still judge himself from condemnation. He may be indwelt by the Spirit and still pray as though the Spirit needed to arrive. He may have access to the Father and still begin his prayers by trying to reach the place Christ has already given him.

The answer is the knowledge of the truth. God's Word must instruct the mind concerning the life received in the spirit.

Paul teaches what has happened through Christ and then tells believers how to respond. Know that the old man was crucified with Him. Reckon yourself dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God. Yield your body to God as someone alive from the dead. The response has its ground in an accomplished work (Romans 6:6–13).

This gives obedience its proper beginning. You act from the life God has given you. You put away the conduct of the former life because you belong to Christ. You speak truth, forgive, serve, and walk in love as a person created after God in righteousness and true holiness.

Growth brings increasing accuracy in that walk. The mind receives light. Faith acts upon the Word. The body is yielded to God's service. The Christ already within finds expression through the person who believes and obeys.

A Truth That Reaches the Whole Life

We will follow this truth through the Scriptures. We will begin with Paul's argument in First Corinthians six, trace the change from Adam into Christ, and examine our participation in the Lord's death, resurrection, and heavenly standing. We will then give attention to Christ within, fellowship with the Father, the renewal of the mind, and our membership in the one body.

Each passage must be heard in its own words. The commands matter. The promises matter. The reasons the apostles give for obedience matter. Where a Greek or Hebrew word opens the meaning, we will give it attention and carry that meaning into the life it addresses.

Read with your Bible open. Let the Word correct the account you have carried of yourself. Receive what God says about the person He has made you in His Son, and act upon it.

You are joined to the Lord. Begin there.