

I. Romans 6:3-7

a) Romans 6:3-7: "3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin."

b) We have been:

- Crucified with Him;
- United with Him in His death;
- Buried with Him;
- United with Him in His resurrection.

c) Thus, Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection is also our crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection.

II. United with Christ In His Resurrection

a) Paul said, "We have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection" (Rom. 6:5). The Greek word for "united" is *symphytos* (soom-fa-tas) and means:

- *Born together with*: When we were born of the Spirit, we were born together with Christ in a spirit-to-Spirit union (1 Cor. 6:17).
- *Of joint origin*: In our spirit-to-Spirit union with Christ, we are no longer of the Adamic race, but we belong to the new creation in Christ.
- *Innate*: In our spirit-to-Spirit union with Christ, the very traits, characteristics, and DNA of Christ were implanted into our spirit from the new birth, giving us a genetic transmission of His life.
- *Implanted by birth or nature*: Implanted within our spirit at the new birth is all that Christ is and has experienced, including His crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection. Now we have pulsating within our spirit Christ's victory over death, hell, and the grave. We have received His indestructible life and impeccable righteousness in our spirit.
- *Grow together with*: The mood of *symphytos* (soom-fa-tas) is the perfect indicative mood, which means there is an ongoing result of a completed action. That means, in our spirit-to-Spirit union with Christ, the work has been completed once-and-for-all. But the results are ongoing. For the rest of our life, we are to grow into an ever-deepening experience of conformity to Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection. This was true even for Paul, who continued to grow into who he already was by the implantation of the Spirit. We see this in Philippians 3:10-11, when Paul said, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." Just a few years before his death, Paul was still seeking to be fully conformed to the death of Jesus and to experience fully His resurrection.

b) In summary, based upon the meaning and the mood of *symphytos*, Paul was revealing that when our spirit was reborn, we were united to Christ Spirit-to-spirit. Our lineage has therefore changed in our union with Christ's death, so that we are now in Christ rather than in Adam. Plus, our heredity changed in our union with Christ's resurrection, so that now by the Spirit of God, we are recipients

of a genetic transmission and have become partakers of Christ's very own DNA. We have thus inherited, in our spirit, the same traits and characteristics of Christ and are therefore "of joint origin" with Him.

- c) The moment we are born again, all of the characteristics and experiences of Christ were implanted within us. That means, all that Christ is and has experienced in His crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection were implanted within us at new birth and now His resurrection life pulsates in our spirit. Inherent within our new spirit is Christ's victory over death, hell, and the grave through His resurrection. His indestructible life and impeccable righteousness have been imparted to our spirit in our union with His resurrection.
- d) In our spirit-to-Spirit union with Christ, the work has been completed once-and-for-all. But the results are ongoing. For the rest of our life, we are to grow into an ever-deepening experience of conformity to Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

III. Because Jesus Was Resurrected and Because You've Been Born of the Spirit...

a) *#1. Your spirit has been resurrected.*

- Romans 8:10: If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
- Romans 6:11: Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

b) *#2. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead now dwells inside of us.*

- Romans 8:11: The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.
- Ephesians 1:19-21: 19 What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

c) *#3. We can live by the power of His indestructible life.*

- Romans 8:11: But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

d) *#4. The Lord can do far more in you and through you than you can think or imagine.*

- Ephesians 3:20: Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.

IV. Here's What This Means...

a) When Jesus died, your past, pain, and disappointments died with Him. When Jesus was resurrected, you were resurrected to newness of life.

- Romans 6:4: Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

b) When Jesus died, your sins died with Him. When Jesus was resurrected, you were resurrected forgiven, justified, and declared righteous.

- The blood of Jesus has forgiven all of your sins.
 - Imputed righteousness.
 - Justification. Declared righteous.
- c) When Jesus died, the sin nature you inherited from Adam died with Him. When Jesus was resurrected, you were resurrected as a new creation.
- You now have a new heart, a spirit, and the Spirit of Christ dwells in you.
 - Your heart has been circumcised and cleansed.
 - Your spirit is alive from the dead and is righteous, holy, and Christ-like.
 - The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells within you.
- d) When Jesus died, your self-life died with Him. When Jesus was resurrected, you were resurrected with the ability to live by the life of Another.
- You now have the choice to exchange...
 - Your selfishness for Christ's unconditional love;
 - Your pride for Christ's humility and meekness;
 - Your anxiety for Christ's perfect peace;
 - Your depression for Christ's overflow joy;
 - Your unfaithfulness for Christ's faithfulness;
 - Your rudeness for Christ's kindness;
 - Your self-rule for Christ's self-control;
 - Your impatience for Christ's patience.
- e) When Jesus died, your identity died with Him. When Jesus was resurrected, you were resurrected as a child of God and as a betrothed bride to Jesus Christ.
- f) When Jesus died, your religion died with Him. When Jesus was resurrected, you were resurrected in union with the Bridegroom in a love relationship.
- Romans 7:4: Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.
 - The Christian life is not "go and live for God." Rather, it is die and let Christ live in and through you. His life, not yours.
 - This "saved-to-serve" mentality died with Jesus on the cross and you were resurrected joined to Christ, your Bridegroom. And the life you now live should be Him living and not you.
 - Because we are now joined to our new husband Spirit-to-spirit, the resurrection power of the indwelling Spirit enables us to meet all of the high expectations and requirements that Christ makes upon us—including the demands from the Law. Though the Law will never pass away, Jesus fulfilled the Law perfectly on earth and He will fulfill it perfectly in us as we yield to His Spirit. Having been delivered from the Law in the body of Christ, Paul said that we now "serve in newness of the Spirit" (Rom. 7:6).