



**Who is the Holy Spirit?**  
Adult Seminar Winter/Spring 2015

**Class 8: The work of the HS: Union with Christ**

I. **Union with Christ**

A. What is it?

***A constant theme in the New Testament***

**John 15:5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

**Colossians 1:26-27** "...the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, *which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*"

**Union with Christ is: you in Christ, and Christ in you.**

B. What are the benefits of union with Christ?

- 1) The whole of our salvation
- 2) All that is Christ's becomes ours

*What's an example that's comparable to this?*

**Ephesians 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly place"

**Gal. 2:20, etc.**

- 3) We have Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:9-10** "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

- 4) It is unbreakable.

**John 10.28** "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."

C. The Holy Spirit forms this union



**Titus 3.4-7** “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, *by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

**1 John 4:13** “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.”

## II. **How are we united to Christ?**

### A. Effectual Calling

#### **WSC 31: *What is effectual calling?***

Answer: Effectual calling is the work of God’s Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

*Why do we say it’s effectual?*

#### 1. Regeneration

*How does Ephesians 2:1 describe us before we were in Christ?*

Another name for regeneration is \_\_\_\_\_.

Example **John 3.1-8** Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

***What are some observations about salvation described here?***



## 2. Conversion

*Why does conversion come after regeneration and not before?*

- a. Faith
- b. Repentance

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

## B. Adoption

The inward witness of the Holy Spirit makes us conscious of our \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 8:14-17** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

## III. Application

*What impact should all of this have on our everyday lives?*