



DEATH
UNEXPECTED LIFE



EASTER AT CONNECT CHURCH

One Message

Two Parts



Betrayal

Falsely Accused

Religious Leaders

Falsely Accused

Civic Leaders

Mocked and Beaten

Crucified

Constantly harassed

The GAP in our Easter Understanding

A fresh look at the whole picture

Our Mysterious union with Christ

1 Corinthians 1:30

³⁰ God has **united you with Christ Jesus***. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

(*by God's doing you are in Christ)

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Colossians 1:27

²⁷ For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: **Christ lives in you**. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

John 15:4-5

⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

⁵ "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹ As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and **the two are united into one.**”^[a] ³² This is a **great mystery,** but it is an illustration of the way **Christ and the church are one.**

1 Corinthians 6:17-19

¹⁷ But the person who is joined to the Lord is **one spirit with him.**

... ¹⁹ Don't you realize that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit,** who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself...

Erickson: Characteristics of the Union

Not only is our union with Christ brought about by the Holy Spirit; it's a union of spirits...

... our union with Christ is vital. His life actually flows into ours, renewing our inner nature and imparting spiritual strength.

(Christian theology 2001)

A day to remember OUR DEATH ON THE CROSS

Gal 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Romans 6 (esv)

How can we who died to sin still live in it?

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6 (esv)

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.

The Power of the Cross brings Freedom

Because we were united with Him in His death

Because we died with Him on the cross

1. The power of sin over us is broken
2. There is no more punishment for our sin

Nothing has to hold
us back