

IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST

I. IDENTIFIED WITH HIM IN HIS BIRTH:

Gal. 4:19, "I travail in birth again... until Christ be formed in you."

A. We are familiar with the concept of the Christian's New Birth.

John 1:13

3:3, 5, 7

I Peter 1:3, 23

I John 3:9

In the Christian's New Birth, it is Christ who is born in him, making him new.

B. Consider Christ born at Bethlehem

1. God incarnate - in human flesh.

2. For a redemptive purpose

C. Consider Christ born within the Christian.

1. He becomes a part of our life

2. For a redemptive purpose

a. Our own redemption

b. The redemption of others through us.

"O holy child of Bethlehem,

How still we see thee lie;

Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us; abide with us,

Our Lord Emmanuel."

The fact that Christians are identified with Christ in a new resurrection life makes us quite different from those of the world.

Think for a few moments about Bunyan's description of the Christian pilgrims in Vanity Fair and what a stir they caused:

1. Their clothing was different.

Therefore they were considered "outlandish men" - ("auslanders" = "foreigners"), or "Bedlams," ((fools, or madmen)

The new clothing of the Christian represents the new resurrected spiritual life of the Xtn.

2. Their speech was different:

they spoke the "language of Canaan". Therefore they were considered "barbarians" by the men of this world who kept the fair. The speech of the Xth is the means of communication with each other and with the Lord. It involves even more than mere speech, and includes our entire manner or way of life.

3. They valued lightly all the wares and mdse. of the Fair, and did not want to look upon them, and they refused to buy anything. It always makes worldly people angry when Christians refuse to play their foolish little games and buy their ideas about what should be greatly valued in this world.

4. They were in the market only for thuth. Men said mockingly, "What will ye buy?" to which they gravely answered, "We buy the Truth." Of course they meant: Christ, who is the way, the TRUTH, and the life.

The Christian has put off an old way of life and put on an entirely new way of life since he is identified with Christ in his birth, death, burial, and resurrection.

IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST - Rom. ch. 6

I. IN HIS DEATH, vs. 6 & 8.

"OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM;

WE ARE DEAD WITH CHRIST."

A. THE OBJECT OF THIS DEATH - OUR "OLD MAN", SINFUL SELF

1. THE OLD MAN, THE FALLEN, UNREGENERATE NATURE IS
CONDEMNED AND EXECUTED IN THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST.

2. THE SINFUL SELF IS ACCURSED, FOR IT HAS BEEN HANGED
ON A TREE.

See Rom. 7: 4, 6

B. RECKON YOURSELF DEAD TO SIN, BECAUSE YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED
YOURSELF WITH CHRIST IN THE FACT OF HIS DEATH.

C. THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS DEATH.

1. EVERY LIVING SOUL IS IDENTIFIED EITHER WITH THE FIRST ADAM
OR WITH THE LAST ADAM. Rom. 5.

2. "NOW NONE BUT CHRIST CAN SATISFY,

NONE OTHER NAME FOR ME;

THERE'S LOVE, AND LIFE, AND LASTING JOY,

LORD, JESUS, FOUND IN THEE."

3. THE BITTER EXPERIENCE OF PHILIP MELANCHTHON, LUTHER'S FRIEND,
WHO TOLD HIM, "OLD ADAM IS TOO STRONG FOR YOUNG PHILIP."

4. "JOYFUL NOW THE NEW CREATION

RESTS IN UNDISTURBED REPOSE,

BLEST IN JESUS' FULL SALVATION,

SORROW NOW NOR THRALDOM KNOWS."

5. YOUR IDENTITY WITH THE FIRST ADAM IS NOT A MATTER OF CHOICE;
YOUR IDENTITY WITH THE LAST ADAM IS A MATTER OF YOUR CHOICE.

6. WHEN YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF WITH THE LAST ADAM, YOU KNOW THAT
ALL THAT HAPPENED TO JESUS CHRIST, AS FEDERAL HEAD OF THE
NEW CREATION, HAPPENED, IN THE PURPOSE OF GOD, TO YOU.

7. WHEN JESUS DIED ON CALVARY, YOUR OLD SINFUL SELF DIED THERE
WITH HIM.

II. IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST IN HIS BURIAL.

A. v. 4, WE ARE BURIED WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH.

B. THE BURIAL OF JESUS.

THE BURIAL OF THE BODY SYMBOLIZES THE LAST ACT OF SEPARATION
FROM OUR EARTHLY LIFE.

C. OUR BURIAL IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM.

1. BURIED, v. 4

2. PLANTED, v. 5

3. SUBMERGING INTO THE WATER; EMERGING OUT OF THE WATER.

III. IN HIS RESURRECTION, v. 8, WE SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM.

A. THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS RESURRECTION,

v. 4, LIKE AS CHRIST WAS RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY
OF THE FATHER, EVEN SO WE SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

v. 5, IF WE HAVE BEEN PLANTED TOGETHER IN THE LIKENESS OF
HIS DEATH, WE SHALL BE ALSO IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RES.

B. THE SOURCE OF RESURRECTION POWER,

1. THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, v. 4

2. A PREACHER IN BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND, ASKED GOD TO FORGIVE
HIM OF HIS SIN OF GLOOMINESS.

C. THE PURPOSE OF THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION.

1. TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE, V. 4.

"BURIED WITH CHRIST, AND RAISED WITH HIM TOO,
WHAT IS THERE LEFT FOR ME TO DO?

**SIMPLY TO CEASE FROM STRUGGLING AND STRIFE,
SIMPLY TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE."**

HOW TO DO THIS:

A. RECKON YOURSELVES DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN, V. 11

B. RESIST SIN, THAT YE SHOULD NOT OBEY IT, V. 12

C. YIELD YOURSELVES UNTO GOD, V. 13.

2. EPHESIANS 2:1-10

A. YOU WERE DEAD IN SINS

B. YOU HAVE BEEN QUICKENED, OR MADE ALIVE, WITH CHRIST

C. RAISED UP TOGETHER IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST

D. CREATED UNTO GOOD WORKS, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

3. COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

A. RISEN WITH CHRIST

B. SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE

C. SET YOUR AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE.

D. MORTIFY YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE UPON EARTH.

E. PUT OFF THE OLD MAN WITH HIS DEEDS

F. PUT ON THE NEW MAN

G. ABOVE ALL, PUT ON CHARITY, OR LOVE.

H. LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS.

I. LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY

J. DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS.