

THE BEAUTY AND BLIGHT OF HUMAN LIFE: CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, AND NEW CREATION
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Session Three: Redemption of Humanity through Christ and the Spirit

I. New Union – With Christ!

A. Individual union of the believer with Christ and Christ with the believer

1. From the separation of the garden, redemptive history shows God coming closer
2. God's drawing of his people to himself now sees its greatest expression through our union with Christ—an interpenetration in which his life is now ours
3. John 14:20-21; 15:4-5, 10

B. Corporate union of believers with one another and together with Christ

1. Corporate implications follow since as we are united together with Christ, we are also united together with one another.
2. True vertical reconciliation with God happens only through horizontal reconciliation with fellow believers, despite how great differences may exist at the human level
3. John 17:20-21, 26; Eph 2:11-18

II. New Identity – In Christ!

A. Individual identity markers of the “new you” in Christ!

1. We are “in Christ” people. Union with Christ elicits a new identity. We not only belong to Christ; we are in Christ. This is now the fundamental reality of our new lives

2. We are those chosen in Christ, redeemed through Christ, made new creatures in Christ, called to follow Christ, adopted into God's family through Christ, made citizens of the kingdom of Christ – in all ways our identity is wrapped up with Christ

B. Community identity markers of the “new us” in Christ!

1. The identity markers of our individual newness in Christ also marks us as a new community – a community of the chosen, called, redeemed, kingdom citizens, as those who comprise together the one body of Christ
2. As such our union with one another must be lived out in greater love for one another
3. Our union with one another in Christ transcends and surpasses all ethnic, racial, cultural, social, national, gendered distinctiveness (1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28; Col 3:10-11)

III. New Life – Through Christ!

A. Individual empowerment to live by the Spirit and so model our lives after Christ

1. Ezek 36:25-27; Rom 8:3-4 – the coming of the Spirit marks the dawning of new covenant life, the internalization of God's work to remake us to be like Christ
2. We are rightly called to follow Christ since his power has now become also ours

B. Corporate empowerment for ministry in the body of Christ and in the world

1. The Spirit who empowers transformation also empowers proclamation of Christ
2. Spirit gifting brings forth service to one another, and love for one another, by which the body of Christ collectively grows into the stature that belongs to the Christ