



**The Logic  
Of Salvation:  
The Holy Spirit  
Brings Life from  
Death**

# Where We Ended Last Time

1. WCF 7.3: The Covenant of Grace: *Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by [the covenant of works], the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offers unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in Him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.*
2. Chapter 8: Considers the Wonderful Realities of Christ's Person and His Work as the Mediator and Surety for His People
3. Chapter 8 ends with telling us that Christ's work did NOT secure the Possibility of Redemption. Rather, it secured the **Reality** of Redemption.

## Christ Secures the Reality of Redemption for His Own.

8.8. *To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, **he doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same**; making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation; effectually persuading them by his Spirit to believe and obey, and governing their hearts by his Word and Spirit; overcoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner, and ways, as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation.*

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\* Christ's mediatorial work does *not secure the possibility* of redemption. It secures the *personal reality of salvation* for each and every one of those given to Him, by the Father, as His inheritance.

## Our Question:

How Does Christ “certainly and effectually apply and communicate” the Redemption that He purchased?

**Through Union with Christ – The Triune God unites Christ to His people and His people to Christ.**

“Union with Christ is the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation. All to which the people of God have been predestined in the eternal election of God, all that has been secured and procured for them in the once-for-all accomplishment of redemption, all of which they become as the actual partakers in the application of redemption, and all that by God’s grace they will become in the state consummated bliss is embraced within the compass of union and communion with Christ.” – J. Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*

# Union with Christ: The Triune God unites Christ to His people and His people to Christ.

## Consider Ephesians 1:3 – 14

1:3-5: The Father has blessed us in Christ, chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world

1:7-9: In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, riches of his grace, discloses to us His purpose in Christ

1:11-14: In Him we have obtained an inheritance, In Him we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit – the guarantee of our inheritance

## Consider Ephesians 1:20 – 2:6:

1. Christ and His people share the same pattern: death, life, glory.

2. Christ was united to us in His incarnation and death, that we would be united to Him in His life and glory.

# Our Question:

## How is Christ united to us?

- **Considered from God's Perspective –**
  - Dead in Sin – WCF 9.3
  - Alive in the Grace and Salvation of Christ:
    - WCF 9.4 – Freedom from Bondage
    - WCF 10 - Effectual Calling (AKA, “Regeneration”)
- **Considered From Our Perspective – That Which God Works in Us**
  - Saving Faith – WCF 14
  - Repentance Unto Life – WCF 15

## Our Question:

## How is Christ united to us?

### Our Condition: Dead In Sin (WCF 9.3):

*Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost **all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation: so as, a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto.***

**Key Point:** Everything that Christ secures as a Mediator and Surety is naturally **unavailable** to EVERYONE in Adam. Ephesians 2:1.

## **Our Question:**

### **How is Christ united to us?**

#### **God's Action (WCF 9.4)**

*When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the state of grace, he freeth him from his natural bondage under sin; and, by his grace alone, enables him freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; yet so, as that by reason of his remaining corruption, he doth not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good, but doth also will that which is evil.*

#### **Key Points:**

1. It is God who converts sinners.
2. God transfers sinners from a state of wrath to a state of Grace.

Cont'd



## Our Question:

### How is Christ united to us?

#### God's Act (WCF 9.4)

*When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the state of grace, he freeth him from his natural bondage under sin; and, by his grace alone, enables him freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; yet so, as that by reason of his remaining corruption, he doth not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good, but doth also will that which is evil.*

#### Key Points Cont'd:

3. God, by this act, frees the sinner from the bondage of sin AND enables the sinner freely to will that which is spiritually good.
4. It's all by God's grace.
5. The corruption of sin remains. But, the converted sinner is no longer **"in sin,"** but sin continues **"in" the called sinner** until all sin is put away.

## Our Question:

### How is Christ united to us?

#### **God's Act Cont'd: Move from Chapter 9 to Chapter 10 - (WCF 10.1 & 10.2)**

**10.1** *All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, **effectually to call**, by his Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by his almighty power, determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ: yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.*

# Our Question: How is Christ united to us?

## God's Act Cont'd: (WCF 10.1 & 10.2)

**10.2.** *This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.*

### Key Points:

1. Having Predestined a people in eternity, God “effectually” calls each of them in time. This effectual call is the historical link between God’s counsel in eternity and the everlasting consummation (10.1)
2. The call is “effectual” – those whom God calls do actually come out of a state of sin and death, which is theirs by nature, and into a state of grace and salvation which is theirs because they belong to Christ. (10.1)

# Our Question: How is Christ united to us?

## God's Work Cont'd: (WCF 10.1 & 10.2)

### Key Points:

3. Note all the the biblical imagery that is used to describe the completeness (integrity) of this “effectual” call: (1) enlightening the mind; (2) changing the heart from stone to flesh; and (3) renewing the will. (10.1)
4. While the Father effectually calls, those in whom He works by the Holy Spirit, answer the call and come willingly and freely to Christ. (10.1 & 10.2)
5. The reason for the call is NOT in the one called. It is in the eternal counsel of God (10.2)

# Our Question: How is Christ united to us?

- **Answer From Our Perspective (What God does in us and What we experience)**
  - Saving Faith – WCF 14
  - Repentance Unto Life – WCF 15

# Our Question: How is Christ united to us?

## “Saving Faith”

### How does faith come about?

*14.1 The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word, by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.*

### Key Points:

1. Faith is Necessary to one's Salvation. The Elect believe to the saving of their souls.
2. God's grace is the source of faith. The Holy Spirit (Spirit of Christ) is the agent of faith.
3. Ordinarily the Spirit works by the ministry of the Word.

# Our Question: How is Christ united to us?

## What is “Saving Faith?”

*14.2. By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.*

## Key Points:

1. There is a “fides generalis” – a faith that believes the Word of God and responds to it appropriately.
2. But, saving faith is personal - a “trust” that can be characterized as an “entrustment” of ourselves to Christ, as He is offered in the gospel, for our salvation in all of its parts.

# Our Question: How is Christ united to us?

## Key Points cont'd:

3. “Faith is not the belief that we have been saved, nor belief that Christ has saved us, nor even belief that Christ died for us. . . Faith is, in its essence, commitment to Christ that we may be saved. - J. Murray
4. “It is not faith that saves, but faith in Jesus Christ. . . It is not, strictly speaking, even faith in Christ that saves, but Christ saves through faith.” – B.B. Warfield
5. “. . .we do not mean properly speaking, that it is faith that justifies us - for faith is only the instrument by which we embrace Christ. . .[it] is the instrument that keeps us in communion with him and with all his benefits” - Belgic Confession (1561), Article 22.



## Our Question: How is Christ united to us?

### Can “Saving Faith” waiver, be weak or strong?

*14.3 This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong; may be often and many ways assailed, and weakened, but gets the victory: growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance, through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.*

Our experience of faith waivers. It may sometimes be weak or strong. But, the object of faith, the author of our faith, and the finisher of our faith – Jesus Christ – never does.

# Our Question: How is Christ united to us?

## *“Repentance Unto Life” – WCF 15*

**Question: What is Repentance unto life?**

**Answer (in two parts):**

(1) An “evangelical grace” - a gracious act of God granted to those who rest in Christ as He is revealed in the Gospel.

*WCF 15.1 Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace, the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ. **See Acts 11:18.** As Peter reported to the church in Jerusalem regarding the gospel being preached to the gentiles, the church responded with no objections and “they glorified God saying, ‘Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.’”*

# **Our Question: How is Christ united to us?**

**“Repentance Unto Life” – WCF 15**

**Question: What is Repentance?**

**Answer:**

(2) Upon the apprehension of God’s mercy in Christ, it is the confession of, hatred of, and grieving over one’s sins; the turning from those sins to God; and the endeavoring to walk with him in all the ways of His commandments.

*WCF 15.2. By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature, and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of his mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God, purposing and endeavoring to walk with him in all the ways of his commandments.*

## Our Question:

How is Christ united to us?

*“Repentance Unto Life” WCF 15*

**Does it Save?**

**Answer:** No, only Christ saves and we are united to Christ by faith.  
Repentance in no way secures pardon.

*15.3. Although repentance be not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of the pardon thereof, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet it is of such necessity to all sinners, that none may expect pardon without it.*

## **Our Question:**

**How is Christ united to us?**

***“Repentance Unto Life” WCF 15***

**Will it accompany saving faith in Christ?**

**Answer:** Yes; no one should expect pardon without evidence of this grace.

*15.3. Although repentance be not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of the pardon thereof, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet it is of such necessity to all sinners, that none may expect pardon without it.*

## Our Question:

How is Christ united to us?

*“Repentance Unto Life” WCF 15*

**Can one sin so little as to avoid condemnation or so greatly as to be beyond salvation?**

**Answer:** No. All sin deserves condemnation by a holy God, but no sin is so great as to put the sinner beyond salvation in Christ.

*15.4. As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation; so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.*

## **Our Question:**

**How is Christ united to us?**

***“Repentance Unto Life” WCF 15***

**How should the Christian repent/confess? WCF 15.6**

- Answer:**
1. Always privately before God
  2. Always particularly before God
  3. Always seeking pardon in Christ
  4. When sin scandalizes a brother or the Church, declare one’s repentance to those offended either publicly or privately as appropriate.

**How should the Christian respond to one’s confession?**

**Answer:** Love and be reconciled to the offender