

**“Radical Unity”**  
**May 27, 2018**

**John 14:15-20**

**CORE-** Our covenant relationship with Jesus is one of RADICAL UNITY. Jesus describes it: *“You are in Me, and I am in you.” (John 14:20)*. The most frequent NT phrase used to describe this RADICAL UNITY is to be **“IN CHRIST.”** (NOTE: You can’t get any closer! Not “with”, but “in”!)

**In this RADICAL UNITY, we receive:**

**1. A NEW HEART.**

- The OT was a good covenant—yet it was *“powerless...because it was weakened by the flesh” (Romans 8:3)*.
  - The Law was unable to completely change us
  - We were unable to completely follow it
- The New Covenant brought us into RADICAL UNITY with the Living God —“IN” vibrant relationship “IN” the Father, “IN” Christ, & “IN” the HS
- Ezekiel prophesied the “RADICALLY NEW UNITY” this way: *“<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”*
- Proverbs 4:23- Our “heart” is our “well-spring”—the center of who we are & the source of all we do!
- We move from “I must do” → “I want to do”!
- Behind all of God’s commands is one command—to love as He loves!

**2. A NEW INTIMACY.**

- “Now in Christ you who we once far away have been brought near by the (covenant-making; unity establishing) **blood of Jesus.” Ephesians 2:13**
- “**For by one Spirit we were all baptized** (saturated with; surrounded by) **into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and we were all made to drink** (deeply sustained by; fully receiving from) **of one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13 NASB)**
- Encounters with the HS frequently used the phrase “to fall upon” (i.e., Acts 10:44). As the father “fell upon” his returning son (Luke 15:20), Mary at Lazarus’ death (John 11:32), and a healed leper (Luke 17:16).
- It means “to give a bear hug; to embrace fervently”!

**3. A NEW SIGNIFICANCE.**

- Our unity with God is foreshadowed in the glory of God dwelling in the tabernacle and the temple.
- Two NT words for “temple”: *hieron* is the entire temple area; *naos* is the Holy of Holies (the most intimate place).
- “*Your body is the temple (naos) of the HS who is in you.*” (1 Cor. 6:19)—something unimaginable to OT believers! We carry His presence!
- NOTE: There is no more intense phrase to describe our union than:
  - “(HS) lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:17)
  - Jesus: “You are in Me and I am in you!” (John 14:20)
- NOTE: This radically transforms the way we carry ourselves—as displacers of darkness & carriers of His GLORY (*weighty presence*).

#### 4. A NEW POWER SOURCE.

- “United with (Him)” (1 Cor. 6:17) we no longer see Him as Someone “up there” or Someone we will meet “later.” Rather, He is the source of our life HERE & NOW.
- Two foundational truths:
  - “I am the Vine and you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you—you will bear much fruit. Apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)
  - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)
  - To live this life of divine love is only possible through the source and enabling power of Jesus!
- Grapes are “the fruit of the vine”—never the “fruit of the branch.” Grapes are the life of the vine translated into a form that can be eaten & experienced & enjoyed by all.
  - Pharisees, in the days of Jesus, spoke of trying to please God as “taking the yoke of the law.”
  - Jesus said, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)
- We are not “puppets”—rather, we are “participants in the divine nature.” (2 Peter 1:4)
  - (Philippians 2:13) “Work OUT (not for) your salvation with fear and trembling (*i.e., acknowledging total dependency on another*). For it is God at work in you to WILL and to DO His good pleasure.”

He will be revealed in and through me—my countenance, behavior, how I carry myself, words I speak—not an image I falsely project; but who I am!