

# The Grand Scope of Redemption

## Lesson 10: The Objective Application of Redemption (Part 2)

A Look at Objective Application of Salvation through Adoption & Union with Christ

“The People of God are the sons of God the Father and he sustains to them this highest and most intimate of relationships.”

John Murray

### 1. The Believer's Spiritual Adoption

Our slavery to sin and the demands of God's law has left us orphaned, separated from God and by nature children of wrath (Eph. 2:3) and of the devil himself (1 John 3:10).

#### **See Gal. 3:23-4:7**

Note contrast between God's natural Son (4:4, 6) and His adopted sons (4:5, 6). Jesus' sonship is exclusive ('only begotten Son') while the believer's sonship is by adoption. Yet they equally share in the inheritance of the Father (4:7; cf. Eph. 1:3-5).

#### **See Rom. 8:14-23**

Note similar themes of adoption as it is connected to redemption (vs. 15, 23) and our inheritance (vs. 17). Note the present status of our adoption is spiritual in nature, whereas it's future dimension is physical (vs. 23; cf. Heb. 2:10).

Note "Abba, Father" (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15). In the OT the primary designation for God was His covenant name LORD (Yahweh), a term that struck fear into the hearts of it's hearers due to the inapproachable nature of God in worship, etc... In the NT, the primary designation for God is "Father" a term that bespeaks intimate approachableness and fellowship (cf. Matt. 7:9-11; 1 John 3:1; John 14:2).

#### **See John 1:12-13**

Note connection between adoption as sons, a legal status, and regeneration (i.e. being born again), a concrete transformation. Both the believer's status before God and his actual spiritual condition is transformed in conversion.

#### **See 2 Sam. 9:1-13** - Story of Mephibosheth

- David's extends grace because of faithfulness to Jonathan (vs. 1)
- David's kindness mediates God's kindness (vs. 3).
- Note crippled condition (vs. 3). Unable to work. Would normally be executed (cf. 2 Sam. 4).
- Receives inheritance and regarded as royalty (vs. 10, 13).
- Treated as one of the king's sons (vs. 11).

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“We must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us... all that he possesses is nothing to us until we grow into one body with him.”

John Calvin

## 2. The Believer’s Union with Christ

Pauline phrase “in Christ” 216x (also “in Him”, “with Christ/ Him”, “into Christ”, “in the Lord”, etc). These important phrases speak about being “located” in Christ.

We are only saved by coming into union with Christ and we can only remain saved by being continually in union with Christ.

### A. Key Individual Verses

- **2 Cor. 5:17**
- **Col. 1:27**
- **Eph. 1:3**
- **Eph. 1:13**
- **Gal. 3:28**
- **1 John 4:13**

### B. Union with Christ & the Dimensions of Salvation

The believer’s union with Christ encompasses every dimension of salvation and is the key to the application of all its blessings.

- Election – See Eph. 1:4; 10b-11; 2 Tim. 1:9
- Redemption – See Eph. 1:7
- Reconciliation – See 2 Cor. 5:19
- Regeneration – See 1 Cor. 15:22; Eph. 2:4-5, 10 (cf. Titus 3:5-6)
- Justification – See Rom. 8:1; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:17; Phil. 3:9
- Sanctification – See Jn. 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 1:2, 30; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:16-17; 4:15; 1 Jn. 2:5-6

### C. Union with Christ in His Death and Resurrection

- **Rom. 6:1-11**
- **Gal. 2:19-20**
- **Eph. 2:4-7**
- **Col. 2:9-15 (cf. vs. 20)**
- **Col. 3:1-4 (cf. vs. 11b)**