

# Glorification

**Definition:** Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like His own.

## A. New Testament Evidence

- Primary NT teaching: 1 Corinthians 15:12-58
  - ♦ Christ is resurrected first, then those who belong to Him (22-23)
  - ♦ nature of the resurrection (35-50)
  - ♦ those who are alive when Christ returns (51-52)
- Also, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 describes the joining of dead bodies with live souls of the departed.
- Other NT references to the resurrection: John 5:28-29, John 6:39-40, Rom 8:11, Phil 3:20-21.

## B. Old Testament Support

- OT expectation of a heavenly city. (Heb 11:10, Heb 11:13-16)
- Abraham expected God to raise Isaac from the dead. (Heb 11:19)
- OT expectation of a resurrection. (Job 19:25-26)
- OT prophecies of a resurrection. (Isa 26:19, Dan 12:2)
- Many people in Jesus' time expected a resurrection. (John 11:23-24, Acts 24:15)

## C. Nature of Our Resurrected Bodies

- Our bodies will be perfect: never wear out or be subject to disease. (1 Cor 15:42-44, 15:49)
- Our bodies will be glorious: beautiful and perhaps emitting light. (Matt 13:43, Dan 12:3, Ex 34:35, Matt 17:2, 1 Cor 15:49)
- Our bodies will be full of strength and power. (1 Cor 15:43)
- Our bodies will be *spiritual*: consistent with Christ' s character. (1 Cor 15:44)
- We shall receive a resurrection body like Christ' s resurrection body. (1 John 3:2, 1 Cor 15:49)
- Jesus had a real, physical body after His resurrection.

## D. The Entire Creation To Be Renewed

- Because of Adam' s sin, God cursed the ground. (Gen 3:17-19)
- God' s curse was partially removed with Noah. (Gen 5:29, 9:3)
- The creation will be fully restored upon Christ' s return. (Rom 8:19-23)

E. Unbelievers' bodies will be resurrected to face a final judgment. (John 5:29, Acts 24:15)

# Union With Christ

**Definition:** “Union with Christ” is a phrase used to summarize several different relationships between believers and Christ, through which Christians receive every benefit of salvation. These relationships include the fact that we are in Christ, Christ is in us, we are like Christ, and we are with Christ.

## A. We Are in Christ

1. In God' s Eternal Plan Before Creation
  - God *thought of us* as having a special relationship with Christ. (Eph 1:4, 1:11-12, 1 Tim 1:9)
2. During Christ' s Ministry on Earth
  - God *thought of us* as sharing in what Christ was experiencing, including righteousness (Rom 5:19), punishment for sins (1 Peter 2:24), death (Rom 6:6), and glorification (Eph 2:6).
3. During Our Lives Now
  - Our union with Christ is no longer just in God' s mind; it becomes a reality in our lives.
  - a. Dying and Rising with Christ
    - We become unresponsive to previous influences. (Rom 7:6, Gal 2:19-20, Gal 5:24, Col 2:20)
    - We become more attentive to God' s ways. (Rom 6:4, Rom 6:11-14, Col 2:10-13, 2 Cor 5:17)
  - b. New Life in Christ
    - Christ possesses and makes available to us all spiritual blessings needed to live the Christian life: eternal life (1 John 5:11, 2 Tim 1:1), faith & love (1 Tim 1:14), grace (2 Tim 2:1), wisdom & knowledge (Col 2:3), and “riches in glory” (Phil 4:19).
    - The stages of redemption occur because we are “in Christ”: calling (1 Cor 7:22), regeneration (Eph 2:10), justification (Rom 8:1), salvation (2 Tim 2:10), and glorification (1 Cor 15:22).
  - c. Our Actions Can Be Done in Christ
    - This applies to any actions that are consistent with His kingdom and done for His glory.
    - Examples: speaking truth (Rom 9:1), ministry (Rom 15:16-17), rejoicing (Phil 4:10), exhortation (1 Thes 4:1), work (Rom 16:12), submission (Col 3:18), and many more!
  - d. One Body in Christ
    - Believers are joined together as Christ' s “body”. (1 Cor 12:12-27, Rom 12:4-5, 1 Cor 10:17)
    - Sinful divisions & hostilities between people are broken down. (Gal 3:28)
    - The church is united to Christ as a wife is united to her husband. (Eph 5:31-32)
    - Believers are like living stones being built into a spiritual house. (1 Peter 2:4-5)
    - Jesus prayed that believers *may all be one*, a reflection of the trinity. (John 17:21)

## B. Christ Is in Us

- Christ *indwells us*, this is much more than us merely agreeing with Him or that His ideas are in us. (John 15:5, Gal 2:20, Col 1:27, Rom 8:10, 1 John 3:24)

## C. We Are Like Christ

- We should seek to imitate Christ. (1 Cor 11:1, 1 John 2:6, Heb 13:2, Eph 5:25, 1 John 3:16)
- We should imitate Christ in His suffering. (1 Peter 2:21, Phil 3:10, Rom 8:17)

## D. We Are With Christ

1. Personal Fellowship With Christ
  - Jesus promises He will be with us. (Matt 18:20, Matt 28:20, 1 Cor 1:9)
  - Increasing fellowship: now (1 John 1:3) => our death (2 Cor 5:8) => resurrection (1 Thes 4:17)
2. Union With the Father and Holy Spirit
  - Father - (1 Thes 1:1, John 14:23, Matt 5:44-45, 1 John 1:3); Holy Spirit - (Rom 8:9, 11, 4-6, 16)