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Jesus—God’s Union with Man

“Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God” (Romans 7:4 NASB).

God came to earth in Jesus to suffer and be tempted in all ways like us (though without sin), to die in our place to purchase men from the consequence of sin, and to rise from the dead to reconcile man to God that we would end our rebellion, find peace with God, escape death and eternal separation from Him, and gain eternal life with Him. But the most beautiful thing Jesus is going to do is yet to come—**He will join us to God.** How is this possible since *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23)? How can mortal, finite creation be united to the eternal, infinite Godhead? Simply, through the work of Christ to purchase us, justify us, and sanctify us as His future Bride.

In Jesus, the Word of the Godhead took on the nature of mankind to die in our place, taking on the penalty we deserved of complete separation from God. But then, that human nature was resurrected, not just back into its fallen nature like Lazarus, but into a changed, eternal, glorified state. Then that glorified human body of Jesus was brought up into Heaven: *“Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us”* (Rom. 8:34).

You cannot be closer to God than at His right hand. But we know Jesus is also God, so He is in the Godhead, but also at God’s right hand. Again, we are seeing a subtle distinction Scripture uses in showing Jesus’ nature as God and His nature as glorified man. Why is that?

Jesus is the intersection and convergence between God and man - the “interface” or bridge of reconciliation between creator and creation, as Jesus said, *“no one comes to the Father but through Me”* (John 14:6b), for God *“reconciled us to Himself through Christ”* (1 Cor. 5:18a). What exactly is the nature of this reconciliation?

Do you know that even now in this life, *“your bodies are members of Christ?...the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him”* (1 Cor. 6:15-17). We are betrothed to Him as a *“pure virgin”* (2 Cor. 11:2)—one spirit with Him and set apart as a member of His Body, but not yet glorified, united, or with Him where He is. But *“we know that when He appears, we will be like Him”* (1 John 3:2), for He *“will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself”* (Phil. 3:21), as He said, *“I will come again and will take you to myself”* (John 14:3b). Yes, *“the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you”* (1 Peter 5:10). It is only through the work of Jesus Christ in us that we are changed, purchased, betrothed, and given the Spirit as a pledge, then at His coming, the Church will be glorified to conform to His glory, and we will be joined to God through our union with Jesus in Holy, Heavenly marriage (Rev. 19:7-9).

Surely it was with this in mind that Jesus asked His father to set the Church apart for Holy service to God, that they would *“all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity”* (John 17:20-23a). Amen!

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