

MYC26 | ONE WITH JESUS

THE FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

20th-23rd January 2026



Free Church
of St Andrews

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I. OT overview and fulfilment in Christ

Introduction: A Tale of Three Unions

1. "For all the promises of God find their "Yes" in him."

– 2 Cor 1:20

2. The promises of God

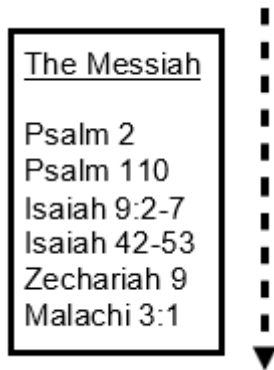
Gen 17:8, 28:15; Ex 6:7; Jer 24:7, 31:33; Ezek 11:20. 37:23, 37:27; Zech 8:8

- i) Noahic covenant (*Gen 8:20–9:17*)

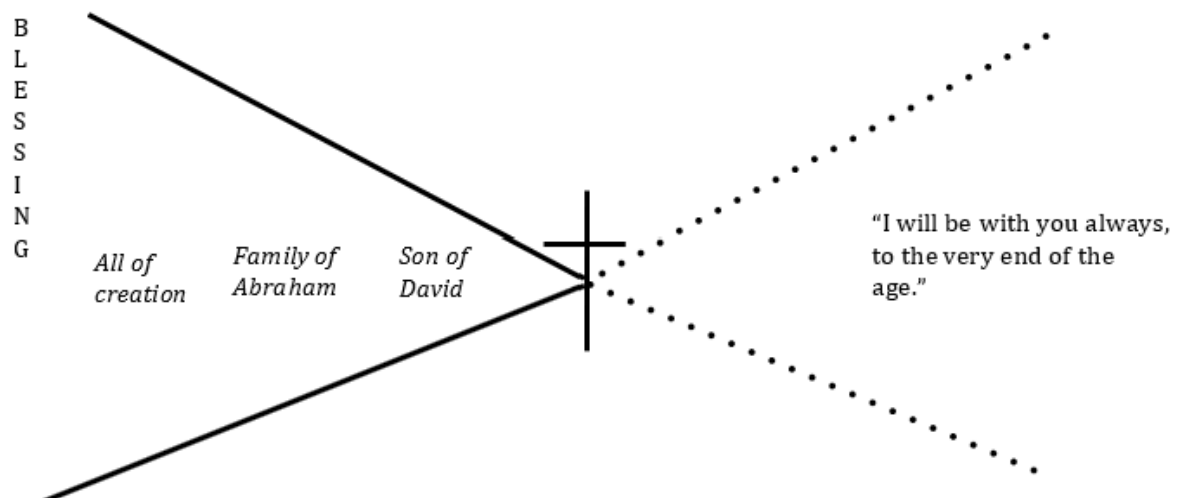
- ii) Abrahamic covenant (*Gen 12:1–3, 15:1–21, 17:1–16*)

- iii) Mosaic covenant (*Exodus 19:1–6, 20:1–17; Deut 6:1–4, 28*)

iv) Davidic covenant (*2 Sam 7*)



v) New covenant (*Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:17-30*)



All the blessing of God are in Jesus – Ephesians 1:3

I. OT overview and fulfilment in Christ – Discussion Questions

1. *In view of the whole story of salvation, why is the promise of God's presence with His people such foundational good news?*
2. *How does understanding God's blessing in terms of His covenant faithfulness help expand our understanding of our own blessedness in Ephesians 1:3?*
3. *How might seeing Jesus as the absolute centre of God's plan and our blessing shape the way we think and pray for ourselves and each other over these days?*

II. NT fulness and justification

1. All of salvation is in Jesus

i) *The Grammar of union*

ii) *The Pictures of Union*

- The Vine and the branches, *John 15:1-17*
- The Temple and stones, *John 2:19-22*
- The body and members, *1 Cor 12:12; Eph 4:12*
- Husband and Wife, *Song 2:16, 6:3; Eph 5:22-33*
- New clothing, *Col 3:9-10*
- Firstfruits and harvest, *1 Cor 15:20-23*
- New creation
- Father-Son relationship, *John 14:23, 17:20-24*

2. Justified in Jesus

In Adam: sin, guilt and death

- The disobedient Adam

- Death's reign over all (*cf Lev 11:44-45, 19:2; Mt 5:48*)

In Christ: righteousness, innocence and life

- Jesus Christ, the obedient Adam
 - In his law fulfilling life (*cf Mt 5:17-20; Gal 4:4-7; Phil 2:5-11*)
 - In his law fulfilling death – (*cf Gal 3:10-14; 2 Cor 5:21; Her 9:26-28*)

- Christ, through faith in whom we are justified – (*cf 1 Tim 3:16; Rom 3:21-25; Gal 2:15-21*)

- Christ, in whom we are adopted – *John 1:12, Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:3-6*

Implications

i) Justification is exclusively found in Christ

ii) Justification is both a legal and relational reality

iii) Justification is a final and definitive reality

iv) Justification is eternally secure

Roman Catholic	Protestant
Justification: a process initiated by God the Father...	Justification: a declaration of God the Father...
...flowing from both Divine grace and human merit...	...flowing from Divine grace alone ...
...on the grounds of the infused righteousness of Christ through the Holy Spirit by the Churchon the grounds of the imputed righteousness of Christ through the Holy Spirit by the word ...
... accomplished through Divine and human works appropriated through faith alone .

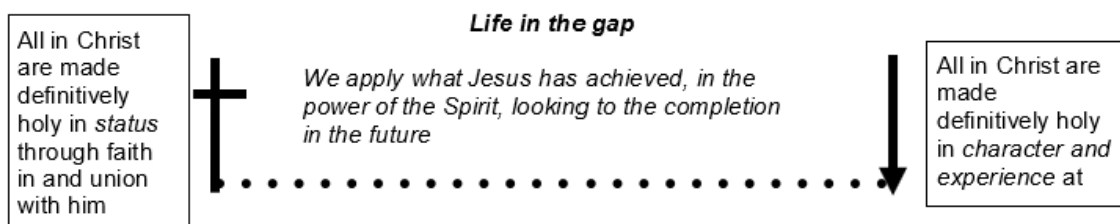
II. NT fulness and justification – Discussion Questions

1. *How does union with Jesus Christ lay the foundation for communion with the Triune God?*
2. *What would it look like for you to go deeper into relationship with God in and through Jesus? How can we help each other here as a church?*
3. *In what areas can we get confused about justification? Where might we be tempted, pushed or pulled to add something in other than faith in Jesus to our standing before God?*
4. *What questions are these passages and truths raising in your mind and heart?*

III. Sanctification; now and not yet in Christ

1. Made holy in Jesus – Romans 6

2. Holiness in Jesus, now and to come



a) Present identity: you are holy now in Christ

1 Cor 6:11

Heb 10:10

b) Future reality: you will one day be perfectly like Jesus

1 John 3:2-3

1 Corinthians 13:11-12

c) Ongoing necessity, battle and process

1 Thess 4:3

Romans 8:13-15

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Implications

III. Sanctification; now and not yet in Christ – Discussion Questions

1. *How does our status as holy now in Jesus reassure us in our Christian living?*
2. *How deeply or often do you reflect on the fact that Jesus himself is your hope for the future as one in him?*
3. *How should these truths shape your daily battle for holiness? Where would you put yourself on a scale, from 1 being too relaxed about holy living to 5 being worried about whether God loves you because of your sin?*
4. *What one thing from the first three sessions do you want the Lord to write deeply on your heart?*

IV. One with Christ in our daily walk

- i) Identity – Galatians 2:20
- ii) Church – 1 Corinthians 12
- iii) Suffering – Philippians 3:7–11
- iv) Purity – 1 Corinthians 6:15–20
- v) Vocation – Colossians 3:1–4, 23–24

Further engagement

Introductory

Confronting Christianity Podcast; Rebecca McLaughlin with Sam Allberry, April 30 2024

Bowsher, Clive – *One*, Union Publishing

Foundational

Calvin, John – *Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book III* John T. McNeill ed., translated Ford Lewis Battles (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press)

Letham, Robert – *Union with Christ: In Scripture, History and Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2011)

Applied

Ferguson, Sinclair – *The Whole Christ* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2015)

Technical

Billings, J. Todd – *Union with Christ: Reframing Theology and Ministry for the Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011)

Campbell, Constantine R. – *Paul and Union with Christ: An Exegetical and Theological Study* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012)

Clark, Stephen, and Evans, Matthew, eds. – *In Christ Alone: Perspectives on Union with Christ* (Fearn, Ross-shire: Mentor (Christian Focus), 2016)

Macaskill, Grant – *Union with Christ in the New Testament* (Oxford: OUP, 2013)

One *in* Jesus

Unity, partnership and differing well as Christians

Q: How would you define unity?

Q: What questions do you have about this topic?

1. Unity is God's creation *in* Christ – Ephesians 2:11–22

Take home #1:

Q: is it then sinful/disobedient to worship in different churches/disagree on things? cf John 17:11

2. Partnership: good but not inevitable

Q: What is gospel partnership?

Legitimate differences in this age for those in Christ together

- *Strategic differences; Acts 15:39*
- *Personal differences; Philippians 1:15–18*
- *Doctrinal emphases and differences;*

The very real danger of false teaching:

Mt 24:1–14; Acts 20:29–31; 2 Tim 4:1–5; 2 Thess 2:7; 2 Pet 2:1–22; 1 Jn 2:18–27

Take home #2:

3. Differing well: charity *and* clarity

i) Charity

Love, not apathy or contempt

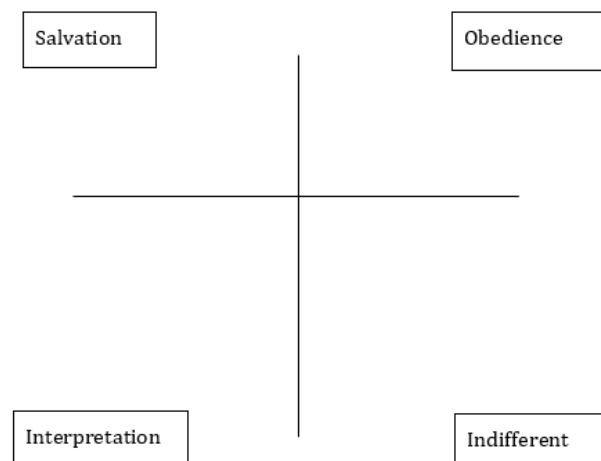
Humility, not prideful judgement

Listening, to understand and not refute

Speaking, to build up and not tear down

ii) Clarity

A suggested grid...



I. *Salvation issues; matters on which life in Christ depends*

- What you must believe – Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9; 1 Cor 15:1-5
- What you must not reject – the Biblical meanings of the above verses

II. *Obedience issues; matters upon which God has revealed Himself clearly in Scripture*

The Galatian spectrum; what is the point at which dangerous becomes deadly?

III. Interpretive issues; matters over which one can biblically differ, yet are important

IV. Indifferent issues; matters which are both biblically debatable and "unimportant"

The value of creeds and confessions

Salvation

Obedience

Interpretation

Indifferent

Prayer

Hard because we are weak. Easy because God is kind.

- What have you personally found hard about prayer?
- What most often gets in the way of praying?

1. What is Prayer?

Prayer is a response of faith to a speaking, relational God.

Westminster Shorter Catechism (Q98):

What is prayer?

Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

2. Why Prayer Is Hard

Mark 14v32-42

Observation:

- What does Jesus ask the disciples to do AND what do they actually do?
- What words or phrases are repeated?

Interpretation:

- According to Jesus, what is the real problem?
- What does this passage reveal about why prayer is hard for believers?

Application:

- Where do you recognise yourself in the disciples?
- What comforts you about this passage?

3. Why Prayer Is Easy

- a. The Father invites us
("Our Father in heaven...")
- b. The Son opens the way
(1 Timothy 2v5; Hebrews 4v14–16)
- c. The Spirit helps us
(Romans 8v26–27)

4. Where Do I Begin?

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6v9–13)

When you're stuck:

- Pray Scripture
- Pray honestly
- Pray simply
- Pray slowly

Key Take-Home Truths:

- Prayer is response, not performance
- Prayer rests on grace, not strength
- Prayer doesn't require better words, but honest hearts
- You never pray alone
- God delights to hear His children pray

Recommendations:

Book: A Praying Life – Paul E. Miller

Podcast: Conversations with God – The Deep Dish

Podcast: How to Strengthen Your Prayer Life – TGC Podcast

Sharing your treasure: How to open up the bible with non-Christians

Why read the bible with a non-Christian friend?

John 20:31; John 5:39-42; Luke 1:1-4; Isaiah 55:10-11; Acts 12:24; Acts 19:20; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 Cor 15:2; Eph 1:13; 1 John 1:1-4; 1 Tim 3:15-16; Heb 4:12-13

Why is it helpful practically?

How to ask someone to read the bible?

- Joy, not duty
- Fumbling is fine

- Get support
- Expect cost, hope for reward

What to do when they say yes?

Shape of a helpful discussion

Practice time in Mark 1:1–15

1. Who is Jesus?
2. Why did he come?
3. How should we respond?

Helpful hints

Resources:

- Uncover Mark/Luke/John
- Word 121 (John/Acts)
- Stay Salt: Rebecca Manley Pippert

Lessons from the Life of Eric Liddell

Lesson 1: Living for the Glory of God

- Prioritising church
- Pursuing mission
- Holding loosely to the things of this world

Lesson 2: Dependence on the Lord

- Bible reading
- Prayer

Discussion on Lesson 1

1. As you seek to love God and bring Him glory, in what ways have you experienced pressure to compromise on your convictions as a Christian? How does Liddell's example in this area challenge/encourage you?
2. When can we be tempted to choose an easy path rather than pursuing something for God's glory that might be hard?

3. What are some of the things in this world that compete with your affections for God? How does Liddell's example surprise you? How can you share a similar understanding?

Discussion on Lesson 2

1. What are the things in life other than God that you tend to rely on?
2. In what ways does Liddell's dependence on the Lord encourage you? How might you implement some of these things in your own life?
3. Do you have any experience of praying for someone or a situation and it has helped you to approach them/it in a more godly way? How is Liddell's example of this so helpful for us?

Lesson 3: The Costliness of Service

- The sacrifice of reputation, relationships & comforts
c.f. Luke 14:26–27

Lesson 4: Contentment in Suffering

- How Liddell interpreted suffering
c.f. Genesis 50:20
- His peace in decline
c.f. 2 Corinthians 4:16–18
- His final testimony
c.f. Philippians 1:21–26

Discussion on Lesson 3

1. What are some of the things that Liddell's obedience clearly cost him?
Which of those feels most confronting to you personally?
2. Liddell felt real grief over the time he lost with his wife and family. How does that challenge the idea that "if it's God's will, it won't hurt"?
3. As you think about future decisions, how does remembering what Christ has already given for us change how we think about what obedience might cost us in terms of careers, relationships, location, etc?

Discussion on Lesson 4

1. When something difficult happens in your life, what explanations do you instinctively reach for? How does Eric's trust in God's purposes challenge that?
2. Liddell continued serving even as his strength failed. How does that challenge how we usually measure usefulness or success?
3. The takeaway was that contentment isn't found in the absence of suffering, but in the presence of God. What would it look like to actually believe that this week?

