

# SHELTER IN GRACE



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**May 30 & 31, 2020  
Part 1: Finding Refuge in Union**

**Introduction:**

- 1. Corinthians 1:30

**My Union with Christ: Three Reasons to Celebrate!**

- 1. No more \_\_\_\_\_ to live the Christian Life  
John 15:51  
John 4:17  
1 Corinthians 6:17
- 2. No more \_\_\_\_\_ to get close to God  
John 14:20  
John 16:7  
John 14:18

<b>The Spirit of Sonship</b>	<b>The Orphan Spirit</b>
Secure	Insecure
Trusting	Mistrusting
Relationally-Oriented	Performance-Oriented
Transparent	Ashamed
Supply-Oriented	Demand-Oriented
Self-Accepting	Self-Rejecting
God-Centered	Self-Centered
Faith-Based	Fear-Based
Sense of Belonging	Sense of Alienation
Blessing-Conscious	Curse-Conscious
Givers	Takers

- John 14:23
- John 14:16-17
- Heb. 13:5
- Matt. 18:20
- Rom. 5:5

- 1. No more \_\_\_\_\_ to self  
Rom. 6:3, 5  
Col. 2:6  
Gal. 3:3  
Jer. 17:8

**TODAY'S CONFESSION:**

**Today, I choose to take refuge in my union with Chris**

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

### Personal Life:

1. Jesus's picture of the Vine and the Branches illustrates perfectly our union with Him. What is the difference between branches and sticks? Why do you think so many professing Christians operate more like sticks than branches? Discuss...

### Ponderings:

2. The first reason we are celebrating our union with Jesus is because it shows us that there is **no more "striving" in our own power to live the Christian life**. Talk about what this actually means and looks like in the real world. Do you ever feel like you're "striving to stop striving?" If so, why do you believe this is the case?
3. The second reason we are celebrating our union with Jesus is because it shows us there is **no more "trying" to get closer to God!** Many of us were raised with a view of sin that taught us we were dirty and distant when we sinned, but that if we confessed our sins and "asked God to forgive us," we could be clean and close again. Why is this such convoluted thinking? What is the difference between a true "godly sorrow" over sin, and the guilt and shame we often entertain? Discuss...
4. Look at the chart in your notes of the Spirit of Sonship versus the Orphan Spirit. With complete honesty, do you find yourself too often relating to God from the Orphan side of that chart? If so, why? Discuss...
5. The third reason we are celebrating our union with Jesus is because it shows us that there is **no more "dying" to self**. After the cross there is no mention of this. The nearest expression might be to "put off your old self" (Eph. 4:22). What do you think are the central differences between the idea of "dying to self" versus "putting off your old self?"
6. According to the truth of the Gospel, your sinful nature already died with Christ the moment you trusted in Him. Yet the ways of the flesh (attitudes and coping strategies of independence from Christ) are still present in our lives. What is the difference between the sinful nature (that already died) and the ways of the flesh (which still present a struggle for believers)? Discuss...

### Promptings:

7. If every Christian lived in the refuge of conscious union with Christ, how much more attractive might His followers be to the world around us? What "adjustments" in attitude or perspective can your union with Christ bring to your life and testimony this very week? Discuss...