

## I. Because of the Work of the Spirit of God in the New Birth, a Christian can be Described as a Person “In Christ”

- A. This is the work of the Spirit
- B. Creates a spiritual union with Christ

## II. How Can We Understand That Union?

- James Montgomery Boice in Foundations of the Christian Faith points out four biblical illustrations

### A. Picture of the **union of a husband and wife** - *Ephesians 5:32*

1. Emphasis on a loving relationship
2. Also involves a legal commitment
3. Creates a working relationship

### B. Picture of the **union of the head and the body** - *Ephesians 1:22-23*

1. Emphasis on the authority of Christ over His own
2. Further emphasis on the growing nature of the relationship
3. Points out that the union with Christ is not a private experience
4. Again there is the creation of a working relationship

C. Picture of **the union of the vine and a branch**

- *John 15:1-7*

1. Emphasis on a shared life
2. The goal of the flow of life is to produce fruit
3. Emphasis on God's work to prune the vine to produce fruit

D. Picture of **the spiritual temple**

- *Ephesians 2:20-22*

1. Emphasis on the permanence of the relationship
  - a) Similar to Jesus' call to build your life upon the rock
2. Emphasis is again on service
  - a) Purpose of the temple is to enable people to come close to God