

**The Good News Of God's Righteousness
Through Christ (III)
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In this message we begin the third major section of Paul's epistle to the Romans, found in Romans 6: 1-8:39. This section deals with God's Sanctification of All Justified Human Beings Through Christ.

What is meant by "sanctification?"

Sometimes in Scripture the idea of sanctification is purely objective or positional, as when persons or things are consecrated, set apart, or declared holy. In a very real sense, all justified persons are "saints" or "holy ones", and when they are said to have been sanctified (in the past), it means that in God's sight, positionally, in view of what God is going to do with their lives, they are consecrated, set apart to God.

Other times in Scripture the idea of sanctification bears directly on the idea of deliverance from sin through the gospel. However, instead of dealing with deliverance from the guilt and penalty of transgression as in justification, sanctification in this subjective, experiential sense deals with deliverance from the power and presence of innate corruption or depravity.

It is this subjective, experiential aspect of sanctification that Paul appears to be dealing with on this third major section:-
Deliverance from innate corruption.

In this section Romans 6: 1-8:39, Paul provides us with the great key to sanctification, union with Christ- and develops three steps in the direction of deliverance from innate corruption, all of which depend upon union with Christ.

Union with Christ is the key to death to innate sin; union with Christ is the key to our new relationship to the Law; and union with Christ is the key to life to innate righteousness.

But what is meant by "union with Christ"? What does it mean to be united or joined to Christ?