

We then noted the great key to sanctification - union with Christ and His benefits; and said that this union simply means “being brought into a saving relationship with Christ by the Holy Spirit.

We now come to the third step in sanctification.

C. Step Three in Sanctification-is Recognizing and Acting Upon Our New Relationship to Innate Righteousness: that of Life. As in Step One, this new relationship may be seen to be expressed in three phases or stages, and the first of these is that

1. We are completely alive to the mastery of innate righteousness

Let us note three Scriptures in this section:

Romans 6: 17-18 “ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you whole-heartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves of righteousness”.

Romans 6:22 “ But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result to eternal life.”

Romans 8:2 “because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death”.

The principle of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, is the principle of righteousness, communicated by the Holy Spirit in regeneration. It prevails over the principle of sin, which is characterized by, and leads to death.

Because this righteousness principle has been communicated to us in regeneration in such a way that it has become part of our nature, John in his first epistle can state with confidence that the true believer in Christ is one who is characterized by righteousness- “ he that doeth righteousness is righteous” - and that the one who has been born of God cannot practice sin, because God’s seed remains in him.