



Opening

Welcome. Special moment in the life of Ulf • Laura • Lee • Gavin • Gill • Maddie
Onion. You are an onion.

— If this winter you use Daffodil bulbs instead of onions in cooking you may be rough over the Christmas period, but you'll come out beautifully in the spring.

—Who came into Jerusalem at Easter on a donkey? Pupil shouted Shrek. Shrek. Donkey. Donkey you are like an onion. Stinky, brown shrivelled drive me to tears. No: Layers

Think of yourself as onion:

- > the outer peel consists of the peripheral things about you part of you that don't matter much clothes, things like that if you peel away that layer
- > what's next is a collection of things slightly more essential to who you are your personality, things that you do and enjoy, but peel that away
- > the next layer is your relationships dear to you, friends, roommates, partner, parents siblings peel that away
- > the next layer is what you believe about the world the truths you cherish deep in your heart who you believe God is, life meaning what your final future is where you think world history is heading.
- > Peel away to the next layer after that comprises of all your secrets past present things about you that no one knows and when you peel them all back
- > what do you find at the core you find Jesus because you are united to Christ.

5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.

Romans 6:1-5 NLT

- How can I really be like Jesus? First things you will realise is they are not perfect, but they are saved. (Your supposed to be a Christian!!!) When somebody is getting baptised they are declaring they have a revelation of who Jesus is.
- Christianity is a crutch – well I hope you break your leg then?! Before any individual can be saved, they must first understand that they cannot save themselves.
- We have established the reality that they can't save themselves and so faith brings them into the arms of Jesus. Justified. Acquittal of not guilty.
- What is the nature of our relationship now freed? How do we actually access Jesus? The Bible's resounding answer is when we turn and collapse into him by faith, we are united to him. Joined to him. One with Jesus for ever.
- In fact the Bible references this over 200 times. More than any other teaching on salvation whenever you would want to come into salvation be in ransomed, delivered, having a new life, not being guilty, getting cleaned up or purified.

Which means this; it's not so much you now have to struggle, endeavour to make vows, something is deep within because you have a relationship with Jesus.

1-2 So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realise we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism.

When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

Romans 6:1–2 Message

Illustration - If we took in a refugee in our home, but found them wandering the streets looking for food shelter in a way to get by. We'd say 'what are you doing?' 'you don't need to do that, it is not who you are anymore?'

Illustration - If we move to another country (seems more attractive by the day) Learn to act in new ways, language in another country you talk different eat differently look different. You are not perfect over night.

3–5 That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

Romans 6:3–5 Message

Teach

Grace outstrips our wrongdoing and wrong being. But that does not mean we do what we want. We are secure IN Christ but we grow.

Because grace is not transaction it comes to us through relationship. Union. When he went down to the grave we went with him, but we didn't stay there we rise with him too. This just brings reality to who we are.

Power of the Text

Theme: Union

1. God then me — God does everything to save me and then it's all up to me to get busy serving him showing how grateful I am so faith gets me in but effort means moves me a long.
2. God not me — the Christian life is a matter for God and only God he's the one who brings any growth into my life and so me as a human agent is just passive and I'm just waiting on God to act all the time.
3. God IN ME — God has done everything to save me through Jesus and then when I believe in Jesus the holy spirit comes into me unites me spiritually with Christ so I'm not passive know yet does God do some and we do assume God does it all and I do it all and we are wholly participating together.

Conclusion

There is sheer intimacy in safety and being a Christian that you can never be disunited from him it is a wonderful inevitability.

Call to Action

Think: What does your life amount to?

Pray: For them. For you to meet the real Jesus. (QE II same hope as hers)

Follow up: Connecting points. Talk