

ONENESS OF JESUS.

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BELOVED FRIENDS,—I want to shew you how wonderful is the ONENESS which believers have with the Lord Jesus. "For," says Paul the apostle, "we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. . . This is the *great mystery*; . . *Christ and the Church*."

This subject is little understood by the vast majority of Christians. There are many whose conception of the Lord Jesus is, that He forms a mere *shelter* from the wrath to come. Blessed truly it is that He "delivers us from the wrath to come," but that alone is a low estimate of Jesus.

There are some, again, whose idea of the Lord Jesus might be expressed by the word *reconciliation*. It is a glorious truth "that God was in Christ *reconciling*."—"We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the atonement." But that does not rise to the fulness of God's thought in Christ regarding us who believe.

There are others who get a step further and tell of *communion* with Christ. That is an unspeakable blessing. We are "made nigh by the blood of Christ." We are now in the light of "the holiest of all," as God is in the light, and God communes with us "inside the veil," whither the blood of Jesus has been carried through the Son of His own love. But blessed as communion is, there is something higher.

There are others who go a step further, and know something of *assimilation* to Jesus. We are changed into the same image by the indwelling Spirit who reveals Jesus, the living, loving, exalted Lamb of God. God has but one likeness that properly shews Him, and that is JESUS; for He is "*the image of the invisible God*."—But Jesus hath ten thousand times ten thousand images of *Himself*; imperfect they doubtless are,—yet all true saints are photographs of Jesus.

But while this and the truths we have named are blessed in their measure; yet ONENESS WITH JESUS rises high above them

all, for if *one* with Him, *we are as He is!* Wondrous thought! blessed privilege!—This *oneness* was foreshadowed when Adam, looking on her who was taken from his body, said, "This is Eve, *bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh*;" and Paul the apostle, referring to this, says, (Eph. v. 30,) "*We are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones*," and adds, "I speak concerning CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

A friend once spoke thus in my hearing—"Some men may ask, May not believers, though united to Christ, finally fall away and be lost? May they not possibly slip out of Christ's hand? or fall, as it were, through His fingers? "Nay," he answered, his mind going back to this passage, "believers ARE *His hands*; they ARE *His fingers*—members together of *His body, of His flesh, and of His bones*." Beloved, "*ye ARE the body of Christ, and members in particular*." How glorious the height to which we are raised in Christ Jesus!

There are two sides to this subject; and I will now shew you, first of all, HOW THE LORD JESUS BECAME ONE WITH US; and then I will picture to you HOW WE ARE ONE WITH HIM.

As to the Lord Jesus being one with us, we need hardly say that He is *not so* as regards His *essential Deity*; yet the members have all the advantages of the glory and majesty of their Head. Just as when the father and head of some family of poverty rises to wealth, and opulence, and a material splendour, all the members of that circle partake of that opulence and splendour; so the grandeur and glory of Christ, even as to His essential riches, reflect themselves upon all the members of that mystical body of which He is Chief and Head. The dews and rays of uncreated glory and blessing descend from Christ, the peerless, timeless, deathless ONE, over His whole body the Church—even to those whose lot and place in that body may be the most distant or obscure. But—