

# The Crystallization UNION WITH THE TRIUNE GOD

God's intention in His economy is to make Himself one with His chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people and to make them one with Him that, in Christ, they may become His corporate expression, the Body of Christ today and the New Jerusalem in eternity. For the fulfillment of this central work of God, we need to experience in full the union with the Triune God.

This union is an *organic union*; it is a union with the Triune God in the divine, eternal, uncreated life of God, the life which is actually God Himself. Such a union is based on Christ's judicial redemption and on our justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Christ is our righteousness, and because of righteousness our spirit has been enlivened by the life-giving Spirit and has even become life itself. We have been joined to the Lord to be one spirit with Him, and we are now parts of Christ, branches of Christ as the true vine and members of His mystical Body.

This organic union is a *progressive union* which develops through a process involving regeneration, sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification. In regeneration we receive another life, the divine, eternal life, in addition to our human life and are born of God to become His children. In sanctification we are gradually permeated and saturated with the holy nature of God until we become dispositionally holy even as He is holy. In renewing the mingled spirit (the divine Spirit mingled with our regenerated human spirit) spreads into our mind to renew us by infusing our being with God's attributes, which are forever new. In transformation the Triune God spreads His life and nature throughout our being, causing a metabolic process in which a new, divine element replaces our old human element and which issues in a change in outward expression. In conformation to the image of Christ as God's firstborn Son, we experience the shaping of life as the consummation of the transformation in life. At the time of our glorification, we will reach the full maturity of life, and the glory, the expression, of God's life and nature will spread through and shine out from us.

This progressive union is a *coinhering union*, a union of mutual indwelling. Our union with the Triune God is a union of coinherence, of interpenetration. We have believed into Christ and we have been baptized into Him. Now we are in Him and He is in us: "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you" (John 14:20). We dwell in God and God dwells in us: "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God" (1 John 4:15). For God to abide in us and for us to abide in God means that we are mingled with God. The coinhering union is therefore a mingling of the Triune God and the believers in Christ; yet in this mingling we retain our identify and God retains His unique Godhead and His status as the sole object of our worship.

This coinhering union is a *deifying union*—a union in which the believers in Christ become God in life, in nature, in constitution, and in expression but not in the Godhead nor as an object of worship. The more

we progress in our union with the processed and consummated Triune God, the more we become God in life and in nature. Even though we will never be God in and of ourselves, we will be made God by virtue of our union with and through our dependence upon the Triune God in Christ.

This deifying union is finally a *corporate union*—a union in, for, and through the Body of Christ as the corporate expression of the Triune God. It is not God's intention that we seek spiritual maturity apart from the Body. God's goal is His corporate expression. Thus, to properly experience the organic union with the Triune God, we must live in the reality of the Body and care for the building up of the Body. The goal of personal union must be corporate union—union with the Triune God for His corporate expression through the Body of Christ, which will consummate in the eternal New Jerusalem.

*The central work  
of God in His  
economy issues  
in the union  
of God and man.  
This union is  
organic, progressive,  
coinhering, deifying,  
and corporate.*

*The Editors*