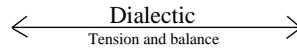


Distinction



Oneness

Western Church

Kept Christ and the Christ distinct from one another in legal, forensic, and juridical context. Real union with Christ projected in heavenly future.

Separated concept

Deistic detachment
Transcendence instead of immanence
"God in heaven; me on earth"
Independent self

Objectified relationship

Objectified standing, status, position before God in heaven.
Imputed righteousness; declared
Acceptance of, assent to, Christ
Casual relationship with Christ
Possess Christ as ticket to heaven

Negative concept of "self"

Self-denigrating; self-deprecating
"Just a sinner saved by grace"
"Still a dirty old man"
"You don't know the real me"
Worm theology - "I am nothing"
Self-surrender, brokenness
Self-denial; suppression
Self-crucifixion; "die to self"

Duality

Two natures in conflict
Double-minded - James 1:8
Spiritual schizophrenia, paranoia
Doubts of salvation
Emotional experientialism

Human potentiality

Evangelical Humanism-"you can do it"
"God helps those who help themselves"
"Do your best; God will do the rest"
Self-generated righteous behavior.
Important to know the right doctrines
Fundamentalistic belief-system
Individualistic Christianity

Performance

Trying to be like Jesus - Christlikeness
Imitation; follow Jesus' example
Trying to be acceptable, perfect.
Seeking to find the "will of God."
Commitment, dedication, consecration
Serving the Lord; working for Jesus
"Pray more; read your Bibles more"
Be a witness; have a "good testimony"
Social activism; problem-solving
Morality, ethical conformity - WWJD
Legalism - keep God's Law
Religion - "to bind up

Paranoia - Fear, Uncertainty

"What am I to do?"
"Is it me, or is it Jesus?"
"I can't help but sin, I'm only human."
"I am secure -once saved, always saved

Sin-consciousness

Introspection, guilt, condemnation
Suppression, confession
Hypocrisy

Worship - emotional, sensate ecstasy
Prayer - pleading for God's help

Separatism, isolationism, exclusivism

Christ and the Christian

"If any one does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9)

"The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom. 8:16)

"Our oneness does not alter our twoness" (NPG)

Ontological Christian union

Gal. 2:20 - "life I now live, I live by faith in Son of God."

Indwelling Trinity

Father - Jn. 14:27; I Jn. 4:12,15,16
Son - II Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27
Spirit - Rom. 8:11; I Cor. 6:19; II Tim. 1:14

Analogies:

Vessel - II Cor. 4:7
House - II Cor. 5:1
Temple - I Cor. 3:16; 6:19; II Cor. 6:16

"The container never becomes the contents." (NPG)

Identification and Derivation

"sons" because the Son of God lives in us - Gal. 4:6,7
"holy ones" because Holy One in us - Acts 3:14; 4:27,30
"righteous" because Righteous One in us- Acts 3:14; 7:52
"perfect" because Perfect One lives in us - Heb. 7:28

The Christian remains fully human.

We retain "personal individuality"
There is still a "me" that relates to Christ
"Yourself" - Rom. 6:11,13; II Cor. 13:5; II Tim. 2:15;
II Jn. 8; Jude 21

Response-ability

Christians are choosing creatures. They are responsible before God to make behavioral choices of faith that allow the life of Christ to be lived out in behavioral expression.
"I can do all things through Christ" - Phil. 4:13
"Without Me, you can do nothing" - John 15:5

Faith

Christian person remains derivative, dependent, contingent.
Faith is "the receptivity of God's activity".
"As you received Christ Jesus, so walk in Him" - Col. 2:6
"Full assurance of faith" - Heb. 10:22
"Obedience of faith" - Rom. 1:5; 16:26
"Faith without outworking is dead" - James 2:14-26

Imperatives - (over 1000 in New Testament)

"Work out your own salvation" - Phil. 2:12
"Love one another" - Jn. 13:34,35
"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing" - I Thess. 5:16,17
"Reckon yourselves dead unto sin" - Rom. 6:11
"Present your bodies a living sacrifice" - Rom. 12:1
"Yield members as members of righteousness" - Rom. 6:13
"Submit yourselves to God" - James 4:7
Discipleship - Matt. 28:19; Jn. 13:35
Obedience - II Cor. 10:5; I Pet. 1:2,14

Misrepresentation

Despite the Christian being "complete in Christ" (Col. 2:10) with "old things passed away, and all things made new" (II Cor. 5:17), there remains the possibility of misrepresenting our identity in Christ.
"Flesh" - patterned desires of selfishness and sinfulness in the soul of the Christian.
"In my flesh dwelleth no good thing" - Rom. 7:18
"The flesh sets its desire against the Spirit" - Gal. 5:16-21
Temptation - the tempter tempts the Christian - I Thess. 3:5
"No trial/temptation but common to man" - I Cor. 10:13
Sin - The Christian can misrepresent Christ in sin.
"If we sin, we have an advocate" - I Jn. 2:1; 1:8

"One spirit" - individually

"The one who is joined to the Lord is *one spirit* with Him" (I Cor. 6:17)

"One Body" - collectively

"By one Spirit we were all baptized into *one Body*" (I Cor. 12:13)

Gal. 2:20 - "no longer I who lives... *Christ lives* in me."

Union

Historically expressed as *unio cum Christo* - "union with Christ." The phrase *unio mystica* - "mystical union" is best avoided because carries connotations of attainment.

At-one-ment of reconciliation with God
"Partaker of divine nature" - II Pet. 1:4
"Partaker of Christ" - Heb. 3:14
Communion, participation, fellowship with Trinity
I Cor. 1:9; I Jn. 1:7; Phil. 2:1
"Christ is our life" - Col. 3:4
"Hid with Christ in God" - Col. 3:3
"Complete in Christ" - Col. 2:10
"Sit in heavenly places in Christ" - Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1
"Every spiritual blessing in Christ" - Eph. 1:3
"In Christ" - (in union with) - I Cor. 1:30; II Cor. 5:17

Identity

"New creature" - II Cor. 5:17
"New man" - Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10
Christ-one; Christian - Acts 11:26; I Pet. 4:10
"Child of God" - Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:16; I Jn 3:1,2,10
"Son of God" - Rom. 8:14,17; Gal. 3:26; 4:6,7
"Saints" - Rom. 1:7; 8:27; Eph. 1:18; 4:12
"Heir of God" - Rom. 8:17; Gal. 4:7

Operational Christian union**Trinitarian dynamic**

Grace - II Cor. 9:8,14; 12:9; Eph. 3:7

Father

"God is at work in us" - Phil. 2:13
"our adequacy is of God" - II Cor. 3:5
"we live by the power of God" - II Cor. 13:4
"He will bring it to pass" - I Thess. 5:24
"Strength which God supplies" - I Pet. 4:11
"His power has granted us everything..." - II Pet. 1:3

Son

"Christ lives in me" - Gal. 2:20
"we shall be saved by His life" - Rom. 5:10
"we reign in life through Christ" - Rom. 5:17
"we have the mind of Christ" - I Cor. 2:16
"Christ is manifested in our bodies" - II Cor. 4:10,11
"as He is, so are we in this world" - I Jn. 4:7

Spirit

"live by Spirit, walk by Spirit" - Gal. 5:25
"filled with Spirit" - Eph. 5:18
"Spirit makes utterances" - Rom. 8:26,27

Character

"Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..." - Gal. 5:22,23
"fruit of righteousness" - Eph. 5:9; Phil. 1:11; Heb. 12:11
LOVE - Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:6,13,14; I Jn. 4:7-21
"live godly in Christ Jesus" - I Tim. 3:12
Sanctification - I Thess. 4:3-7; Heb. 12:14; I Cor. 1:30
"Good works" - Eph. 2:10; Heb. 13:21; James 2:26

Ministry

"Christ through me" - Rom. 15:18; Acts 15:12
"Ministry of the Spirit" - II Cor. 3:3,8,9
"Ministry of reconciliation" - II Cor. 5:19
Spiritual giftedness - Rom. 12; I Cor. 12; Eph. 4

One Body - I Cor 12:27; Eph 1:22,23; 4:4; Col 1:28,24

Unity - Jn 17:21,22; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 1:27; 2:2
Fellowship of suffering - Rom 8:17,18; Phil 3:10; Col 1:24
Interpersonal relationalism of the life of Trinity.

Eastern Church

More adequate understanding of salvation as union with God in Christ, but *Theosis* concept often conveys idea of merged oneness with God.

Monistic oneness

Abstract, universal oneness
"God is all in all"
"Spirit is the only reality"
"God only"
Pantheism; panentheism
Divine determinism

False views of union

Essential union - equivalence, transubstantiation, consubstantiation, indistinguishable, absorbed, merged, fused, coalescence.
Deification, divinization, supernaturalization.
Inherently, intrinsically divine
"I am God, Jesus Christ, or Spirit"
Organic union - vine/branch analogy
Hypostatic union - as in Christology
Universal union - if God is all, then all is one with God. Divine light, seed of Christ in every man.

View of humanity

Obliteration, annihilation, abandonment, dissolution, displacement, replacement.
Depersonalizing, reduction of humanity
Kenotic emptying of humanity
"I am no longer human"
"I am not; only He is"

Divine inevitability

Deterministic expression of deity within humanity.
"Everything I do is Christ in action."
"Whatever I do, is what He does."
Direct-drive; autopilot Christian life
"God only" - at work in me

Passivism

Deny responsibility of the Christian
"God doesn't mean for man to have faith - just express God."
Acquiescence - "Just go with the flow"

Pride

Gnostic elitism
"We are knowers, see-ers"
"We have God-consciousness"
"I AM all that Jesus is."
"As He is, so are we" (I Jn. 4:17)
"I do what I will, for what I will is what He wills."
"We are co-gods, co-creators, co-redeemers, co-saviors"
"Word of faith" - calling into being, what is not. "Faith is just speaking your word."

Perfectionism

"New man can't sin."
"What appears to be sin is illusion"
Docetism - "appears" to be sin
Antinomianism, libertinism
Law unto themselves.
Disregard for holy behavior
Flaunt liberty and sin
Worship - "Why worship ourselves?"
Prayer - "Why pray to ourselves?"