

DOUBLE GRACE IN JOHN CALVIN'S THEOLOGY REVISITED

The gospel according to John Calvin is said to take on both narrow and expansive senses, with key ideas dispersed throughout his writings. In particular, some scholars argue that Calvin's doctrine of "Union with Christ" is the central motif for the gospel itself. Calvin himself claims that the "sum of the gospel" is the double grace of justification and sanctification, gifts which are inseparable yet distinct, receive through the Holy Spirit in union with Christ (*Institutes* 3.3.1).

While scholars acknowledge the importance of union with Christ for Calvin's understanding of the gospel, what remains unclear in recent literature is the relationship between the doctrine of justification and sanctification. Does Calvin depart from Luther's emphasis on the grace of justification by holding in tension the double grace of justification and sanctification, subsumed under the doctrine of Union with Christ? Does Calvin regard the doctrine of Union with Christ as the "root" of the believer's sanctification in contrast to the Lutheran tendency to view sanctification as a "fruit" of justifying faith?

This presentation addresses specifically the question of whether there is a logical or temporal sequence in Calvin's thought that prioritizes justification over sanctification in the *ordo salutis*, and its implications for pastoral ministry.



Speaker
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Rev. Dr. Chin is Senior Pastor of Orchard Road Presbyterian Church, and holds PhDs in Theological Studies (Dallas Theological Seminary) and Intercultural Studies (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School). An ordained minister, he pastored Chinese churches in the USA for seventeen years. In the last thirteen years, he served as a theological educator in several teaching positions in the USA and Asia. Prior to coming to ORPC, he was Professor of Theological and Intercultural Studies and Academic Dean at Singapore Bible College. He is the author of *The Perception of Christianity as a Rational Religion in Singapore: A Missiological Analysis of Christian Conversion* (Pickwick 2017), and *Mystical Union and Imitation of Christ: The Two-Dimensional Nature of John Calvin's Spirituality* (Hamilton 2018). He is also adjunct faculty at East Asia School of Theology.

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