(1 Corinthians 6:17)

Question: What does it mean when the Bible says, “The one who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him”? (1 Corinthians 6:17, NIV)

Answer: Let’s explore this together…

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:17:
“But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”

This expresses a deep, spiritual union between the believer and Christ—one that goes beyond physical or emotional connection. To understand this better, consider the imagery in Revelation 22:17:
“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.” (NIV)

Here, the Spirit (the Holy Spirit of God) and the bride (the Church,

the collective body of believers) speak with one voice, inviting people into salvation. This unity of voice symbolizes their being joined together in purpose and nature.

This unity is why Jesus said in Matthew 10:40:
“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.” (NIV)

Those sent by Jesus are not separate from Him—they share in His mission and authority. To receive them is to receive Christ Himself. This shows the spiritual reality that the believer is united to Jesus—not only by faith but by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, which creates a profound oneness.

Have you placed your faith in Jesus? Are you waiting for Him to physically appear before you believe? The Bible warns against this kind of waiting. Jesus is already at work among His people through the Spirit. True servants of God bring the message of eternal life, not on their own authority, but empowered by the Holy Spirit.

When God calls you to salvation, it is the Spirit of God working in your heart, drawing you to faith and transformation (John 6:44).

This is how the believer becomes “one spirit” with the Lord—the Holy Spirit unites the believer’s spirit with Christ’s.

Again, Revelation 22:17 reminds us:
“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ Let anyone who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let anyone who is thirsty come; and whoever wishes, take the free gift of the water of life.”

This call to come and receive eternal life is the unified invitation of God through His Spirit and His Church.

In summary: Being “one spirit” with the Lord means a spiritual union accomplished by the Holy Spirit, where the believer’s inner being is united to Christ. This union is foundational for salvation, sanctification, and intimate fellowship with God (Romans 8:9-11).

Shalom.

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