

# Romans 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

## Analysis

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**For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death**—symphytoi (σύμφυτοι, "planted together, grown together") is used only here in the NT, meaning organically united, like a graft (cf. Romans 11:17-24). The perfect tense gegonamen (γεγόναμεν) indicates a past event with continuing results: "we have become and remain united." **The likeness of his death** (tō homoiōmati tou thanatou autou, τῷ ὁμοιώματι τοῦ θάνατου αὐτοῦ)—homoiōma (likeness) means genuine representation, not mere copy. Believers don't just imitate Christ's death; they share in its reality through mystical union.

**We shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection**—the future tense points both to present sanctification and future glorification. The logical necessity (alla kai, "but also") establishes that death and resurrection are inseparable: union with Christ's death guarantees participation in His resurrection life, both now (spiritual resurrection to new life) and eschatologically (bodily resurrection at the parousia). This refutes antinomianism: those truly united to Christ's death cannot remain unchanged.

## Historical Context

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Agricultural imagery of grafting and planting was common in the Mediterranean world and in Jewish scripture (Psalm 1:3, Jeremiah 17:8). Paul elsewhere uses grafting language for Gentile inclusion (Romans 11). The concept of organic union distinguished Christian thought from Greek philosophical individualism.

Resurrection hope was distinctly Jewish (though denied by Sadducees), and Paul argues that Christ's resurrection inaugurates the age to come, which believers already experience proleptically.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to be 'organically united' to Christ rather than merely following His example?
2. How does certainty of future resurrection motivate present holy living?
3. Where in your Christian walk do you most need to trust the 'continuing results' of your union with Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰ	γὰρ	σύμφυτοι	γεγόναμεν	τῷ	ὁμοιώματι	τοῦ
if	For	planted together	we have been	G3588	in the likeness	G3588
G1487	G1063	G4854	G1096		G3667	
θανάτου	αὐτοῦ	ἀλλὰ	καὶ	τῆς	ἀναστάσεως	
death	of his	also	G2532	G3588	in the likeness of his resurrection	
G2288	G846	G235			G386	
ἐσόμεθα·						
we shall be						
G2071						

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 4:10** (Parallel theme): Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

**Colossians 2:12** (Resurrection): Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

**Colossians 3:1** (Resurrection): If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

**Isaiah 5:2** (Parallel theme): And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

**Psalms 92:13** (Parallel theme): Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**Jeremiah 2:21** (Parallel theme): Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

**Matthew 15:13** (Parallel theme): But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.