1. No true Christian desires in their heart to continue in sin after receiving the grace of God. While they cannot obey God’s commandments perfectly, they none-the-less hate the reality that they still continue to sin against the God whom they love.
2. All true Christians experience spiritual union with Christ through the grace that comes to them through faith in Him. This means that all true Christians not only experience justification, but also sanctification. All true Christians gradually grow more and more into the likeness of Christ.
3. Everyone who is in Christ is no longer enslaved to their own sin because everyone who has died in Christ has been set free from their sinful nature. And because we have died with Christ, we also know that we will live with Him in obedience to the Father.
4. All those who are trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins must, just like Jesus, consider themselves “dead to sin” and “alive to God” in Jesus Christ. Remember that true Christians who were once “in Adam” are now “in Christ.”
5. True Christians have the power, through their spiritual union with Christ, to reject the power of sin that attempts to reign in their mortal body. They do not have to obey its’ passions.
6. True Christians must not present the members of their body to sin and allow them to commit unrighteousness. Because of their union with Christ, they can now present themselves as those who have been brought from death to life, and the members of their body as servants of God and as instruments for righteousness.

Application

1. Feel the tension. Believers in Christ have been united with Him and now experience freedom from sin. Their old selves have been crucified with Christ. Yet even though this is already true, their freedom from sin has not yet been fully realized. We still struggle! We still battle!
2. Make war with our remaining sin. Because of our union with Christ we now have the power, through the work of the Spirit, to kill our remaining sins that continue to try to reign in our bodies. Let us no longer let sin continue to reign in us and make us obey its’ passions.
3. Let us be people who are rich in the spiritual disciplines like knowing our Bibles, spending many precious hours in prayer, and passionately seeking to share the message of the gospel with our neighbors.