



# The Highest Union

*“Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven” (Psalm 85:10, 11).*

One of the most meaningful depictions in the Scriptures is that of the union between righteousness and lovingkindness in Psalm 85:10, 11. With the poetic language of synonymous parallelism, the writer said that lovingkindness and truth have come together. He portrayed righteousness and peace as kissing each other. In a manner of speaking, lovingkindness and truth, righteousness and peace were wedded at the cross. In their union they produced the redemption that God has given to us through Christ.

*This union took place at the cross through the personal sacrifice of Jesus.* The great attributes of God’s character functioned in harmony as He dealt with our sin completely and for all time. His covenant loyalty and His everlasting truth merged at the cross. The holy righteousness that abhors sin and the divine peace that conveys rest joined to provide the judgment of sin and the offer of forgiveness. In Jesus’ death these wonderful characteristics united as the terrible price for the guilt of sin was paid.

*This union is personalized in each of us when we receive His grace and His salvation becomes a reality for us.* These amazing attributes combine in us, the psalmist said. We obtain personal salvation by accepting atonement for our sins through God’s righteousness, but our obedient faith is necessary to receive His grace. If we refuse Christ’s gift, it is as if His death had never taken place; but when we receive His gift, God’s crown jewels of righteousness and lovingkindness are united in us!

*This union results in our reconciliation with*

*God.* The psalmist spoke of heaven and earth joining together in us. He wrote, “Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven” (v. 11). Jesus prayed, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Surely, every Christian longs to be in perfect union with heaven. To our amazement and joy, verse 11 of this psalm declares that a time will come when this is so! According to the language of the psalm, truth rises from the earth (as man yields to God’s will and faithfulness) and righteousness comes down from heaven (as God’s righteousness through His grace and love comes down to join with His truth).

The writer, no doubt, had in mind the coming of God’s deliverance in the form of His righteousness and truth. God would bestow His highest blessings upon those who were praying this prayer. However, through the lens of the New Testament, we can see a far greater meaning in the words, a beautiful expression of the gospel. God, through the cross, united heaven and earth, lovingkindness and truth, righteousness and peace in the great salvation that He has provided for all mankind.

Eddie Cloer



*“But now . . . the righteousness of God has been manifested . . . through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:21–24).*