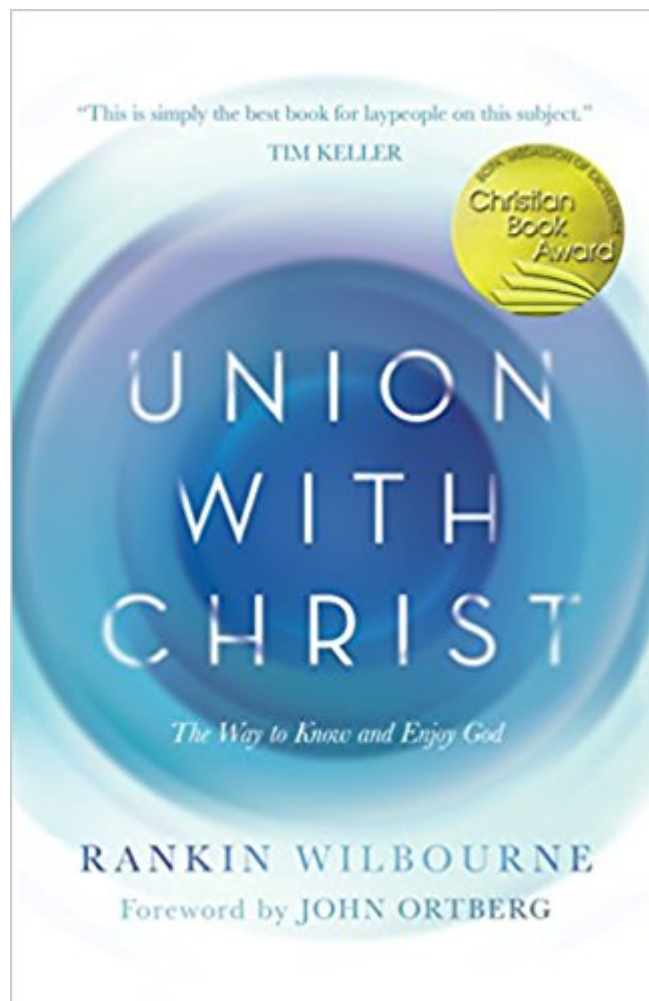




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Union With Christ: The Way To Know And Enjoy God



Synopsis

Winner of the 2017 *Christian Book Award for New Author* Named one of the top books of 2016 by John Piper's *Desiring God* ministry To experience why the gospel is good news and answer life's most foundational questions about identity, destiny, and purpose, we must understand what it means to be united to Christ. If you are a Christian, the Bible says that Christ has united his life to yours, that you are now in Christ and Christ is in you. This almost unfathomable truth is the central theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Yet few Christians today experience or enjoy this reality. Union with Christ reveals the transformational power of this ancient doctrine while addressing the basic questions of the human heart: Who Am I? Why Am I Here? Where Am I Headed? How Will I Get There? Nothing is more practical for living the Christian life than union with Christ. The recovery of this reality provides the anchor and engine for your life with God—for your destiny is not only to see Christ, but to actually become like him.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Everyone seems to agree that union with Christ is a biblical teaching crucial to understanding and communicating the gospel, but preachers today do not give it the same emphasis that the New Testament does. One reason is that, unlike the new birth, justification, and adoption, it requires multiple metaphors to draw out its rich meaning. Rankin does so clearly and compellingly. This is simply the best book for laypeople on this subject. It is grounded in exegesis and theology and yet is lucid and supremely practical. While not unaware of the recent controversies about union and justification, which are briefly sketched in the endnotes, Rankin's whole concern is to make the

biblical teaching accessible and applicable to the reader. He does this with excellence." (Tim Keller)"I'm trying to remember the last time I was more excited about a new book or a new author. Rankin Wilbourne brings a remarkable flair for writing, and a great breadth and depth of learning, and a passionate heart, to the most important subject in the world: What is the true and sufficient destiny for human life? Rankin does a masterful job of articulating what union with Christ consists of, how central it was to the writers of Scripture and to great thinkers through the centuries, why it has been lost in our day, and most importantly how to pursue it as a concrete reality in daily life for ordinary people. So that's why I'm excited for you to meet Rankin and enter a new world." (John Ortberg)"This is the most accessible, helpful, best illustrated book on union with Christ I've ever read." (Scotty Smith)"Union with Christ: The Way to Know and Enjoy God has a tone of urgency-it is important, important content-but is reasonable and lucid. It is helpful, trustworthy, interesting, and insightful, and I am glad to have found it. It deserves to be well known." (Byron Borger)

Rankin Wilbourne (M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary) is the pastor of Pacific Crossroads Church in Los Angeles. A former commercial banker, Rankin understands the "gap" between the gospel preached on Sunday and the world people face on Monday. Leading a thriving church in a city driven by imagination, he's concerned with practical theology—drawing connections between what we believe and how we live. Rankin and his wife, Morgen, reside in Los Angeles with their three children.

This book was recommended to me simultaneous to me hearing Rankin speak at a conference this year. The experience of hearing him speak increased my desire to want to read the book. It is easily the best which-book-do-I-read-now decision I've made in years. I was utterly captivated by the book from its opening pages. Union with Christ is something which I would claim to have known in bits and pieces, and therefore have knowingly experienced its benefits in only bits and pieces. This book brought those scattered bits and pieces into a coherent, well-articulated and illustrated whole. Rankin's flow in defining Union with Christ, then tracing it Biblically, historically and finally experientially brings a compelling case for presenting the importance, or I might even say, centrality of Union with Christ to the Christian life. As someone who works closely with college-aged students in ministry, I have already been recommending this book heartily and even purchasing additional copies of it to hand to students - it is THAT good. It is readable and accessible across a wide range of people and audiences. I cannot recommend it more highly.

This book is a fantastic read. Rankin has blended substantial scholarship and everyday-spiritual-direction in a way that few books in recent years have. I believe he accomplished his desire stated early on to recover the hugely overlooked doctrine of union with Christ while at the same time engaging timely cultural issues facing everyone in the west along with giving solid and simple ways to apply this doctrine to our hearts, lives, and mindsets. While I could recommend it for numerous reasons, I particularly think his treatment of grace and holiness was the best, clearest, and most succinct I've read to date (and as a pastor, I've read a lot on that topic!), which will greatly impact how I communicate and minister the gospel to others and even my own heart. Rankin deals throughout with a great number of false choices we often face showing that union helps us see how seeming opposite things are actually brought together in union with Christ. The book was challenging, comforting, and simply a delight to read. This book will be a gift to whoever will take up and read it.

I enjoyed savoring this wonderful book over time. Even though the subject matter may seem daunting to some, this book is highly accessible. The author deftly reins in his considerable intellect and aptitude as a theologian to relate to everyday believers in a very winsome way. Reading this book is like sitting with a close friend over tea, comparing notes on the incredible divine relationship anyone can enjoy. This book describes what this mystical union is and encourages us to enter into it, but if I could ask one more thing (perhaps from a sequel), it would be to get a stronger practical sense of what this supernatural interchange looks like on a day-to-day level. Clearly, this author has ventured into these spiritual waters and I'd love to hear more personal stories of what that's been like for him. Recommended reading.

The author is a dear friend of mine (full disclosure) regardless I'm happy to share with you why you should read this gem. First a deep abiding union with Christ really is the end-game of the Christians walk. It's what we are driven to and the way sanctification happens. And second there is not much written on the topic and most that is presents itself in that dry studious plodding seminarian style. This book takes that way dry material and shapes it in a way for us to better understand, apply and enjoy it. I think you'll really like the book.

I like this book because I do see that many Christians are missing the intimate relationship with Christ. It's thought provoking book that is easy to read and contains lots of scripture references and

other quotes to help validate and elaborate. The only reason it's a 4 instead of 5 is because it's a little bit redundant at times with the "becoming more human" metaphor.

Helpful, clear, and dare I say, practical. This book on the vital reality for believers in Jesus is very encouraging and even brings the high-mindedness of our Union with Christ to the ground of Wednesday afternoons as we live it out. The calls to holiness are clear and grounded in Scripture and even tips for abiding are practical without losing the point of our union. The love of God revealed here is worth the cost, and it is an inheritance that we can keep cashing in over and over again.

Exactly what I needed to hear! So do ALL Christians. We live knee deep in turmoil and junk hoping things will get better, someday. And yet Christ has given us ALL. Only know and strive to know Him more each day. Therein lies all our hopes not just for after death but for every day here and now. Oh what joy we will live in and exude as we live in "Union With Christ".

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