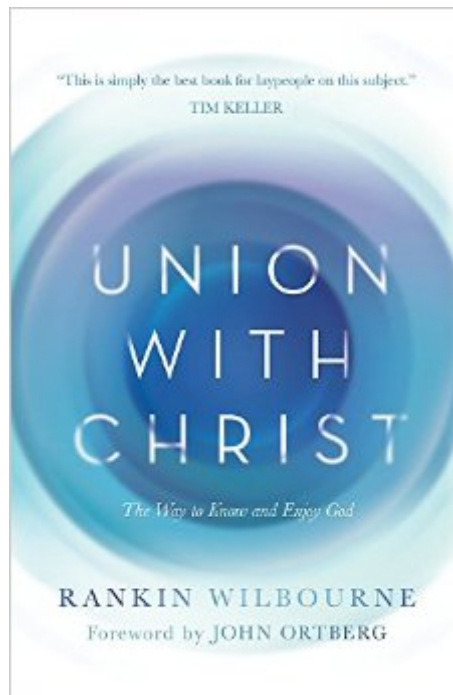


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# Union With Christ: The Way To Know And Enjoy God



## Synopsis

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

If you're in a dry season or ever wonder if there is more to life than this, I strongly encourage you to pick up this book. Rankin is the perfect travel guide to help you navigate the topography of your heart as you search for "living water". Through this book, you realize the "sweet waters of the far country" are not so distant after all "but it's readily accessible through union with Christ. The term "union with Christ" can sometimes feel so abstract and elusive. How are we united to Christ |really? What does that look like day-to-day? Rankin does a brilliant job of helping us understand and live out this reality of being grafted in the vine (John 15). He shows us how we can experience heaven here and now by baptizing our imagination and seeing what is already true

of us: we are hidden and safe in Christ. As an excellent teacher, pastor, and doctor of souls â€” Rankin doesnâ€™t deny or undermine the problem. He acknowledges the sanctification gap; that disconnect where our experience and theology donâ€™t always seem to align. He calls it out courageously and allows us to wrestle with that gap. As Henri Nouwen says: â€œYou say what I suspected, you express what I vaguely felt, you bring to the fore what I fearfully kept in the back of my mind. Yes, yes â€” you say who we are, you recognize our conditionâ€ (1). Through this book, I realized that I am not alone in struggling with this gap. There is an entire history of people (past and present) who acknowledge this gap and have discovered that the antidote is union with Christ. Rankin brilliantly shows how union with Christ is the thread that holds it all together and it helps us rediscover who we really are. Because we are covered in Him and made in His image, we also share in the hope of glory.

Wilbourne is concerned that many facets of our union with Christ are being ignored. It was once considered to be the heart of the Christian life. â€œThe highest good of human life,â€ he writes, â€œindeed the purpose of creation and redemption, is communion with God.â€ (278) That intimacy comes through our union with Christ. Wilbourne begins his book by emphasizing the need for us to exercise our imagination. Our imagination â€œis necessary to know and enjoy God.â€ (18) How else can we relate to an unseen God? I had high expectations that I would be taught how to use my imagination to live in my identity in Christ and to abide. When I got to that section in the book, however, imagination was a forgotten concept. I wish Wilbourne had explained how we actually use our imagination in our Christian life, rather than just telling me I needed to engage it. The book is divided into four parts. Part I explores what union with Christ is and why we need to receive it. Part II substantiates the claim that union with Christ is central to the Christian life but is largely misunderstood and overlooked. Part III is on how we apply our union with Christ in our everyday lives. Part IV is on how to live in union with Christ. Wilbourne notes that there is a chasm between what we say we believe and our actual experience. There is a gap between the inheritance we have been given and our present experience. Recognizing this gap is the first step in closing it. I wish there had been more on closing that gap. His section on living in union with Christ mentions a few disciplines but otherwise I felt was lacking. He does remind us that experiencing that union with Christ requires discipline and practice. It doesn't naturally happen.

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