

UNITED

*Living Out Our
Union with Christ*





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Outline: Union with Christ...

- I. Is it central to the Bible?
- II. Is it central to our Lives?
- III. How do we make it central?





Point I: *Is it central to the Bible?*

The Bible the grand story of
God restoring our communion
with Him.



Point 1: *Is it central to the Bible?*

*“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was **very good**.”*

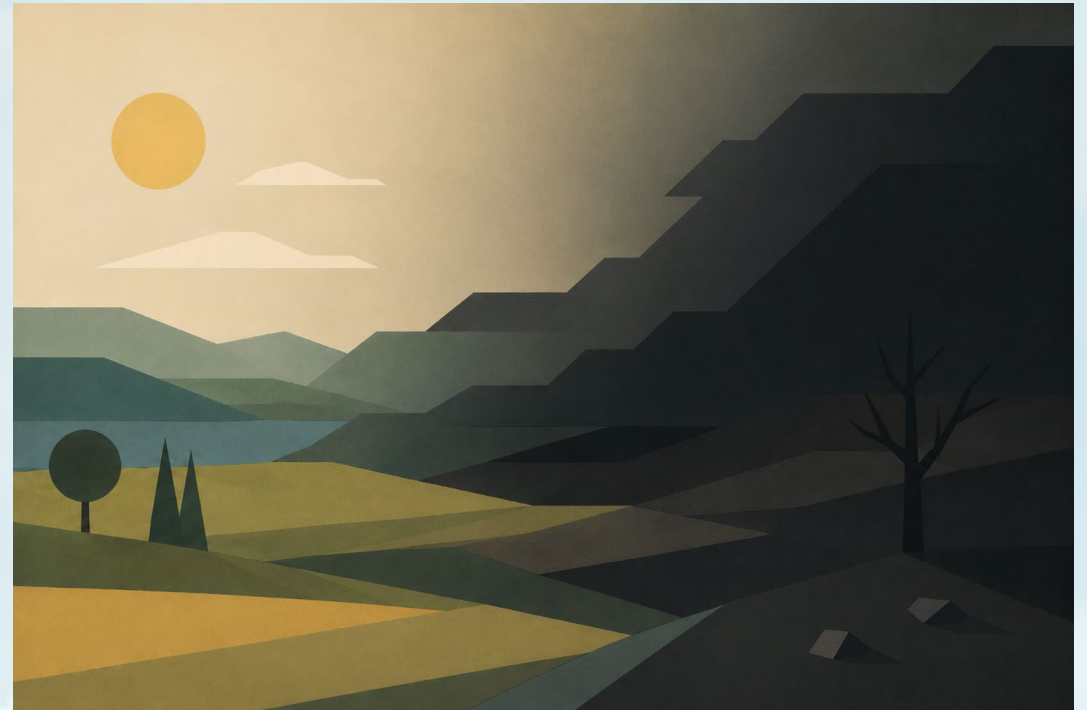
Genesis 1:31



Point 1: *Is it central to the Bible?*

*But the LORD God called to the man and said to him,
“Where are you?”*

Genesis 3:9



Point I: *Is it central to the Bible?*

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Genesis 3:15

Protoevangelium:

The Gospel in “Seed” form



Point 1: *Is it central to the Bible?*

“God’s purposes have never changed. His original intent is his final intent: that the people of God might dwell in the place of God, enjoying the presence of God—this the arc of the whole biblical story from Genesis to Revelation.”



Rankin Wilbourne

Point 1: *Is it central to the Bible?*

*In love, God sent his Son
reconcile what had been lost...*



Point I: *Is it central to the Bible?*

Union with Christ in...

- ❖ The Gospels: “Kingdom of God”
- ❖ Acts: “Why are you persecuting me?”
- ❖ Pauline Epistles: “in Christ” “in Him”

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. **He will dwell with them**, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” - Revelation 21:3*



Point II: *Is it central to our Lives?*

- ❖ *Why do so many of us have a hard time articulating the practical and devotional significance of our Union with Christ?*



Point II: *Is it central to our Lives?*

Reason #1: It's hard to articulate...

- ❖ Ephesians 5: *Marriatal Oneness*
- ❖ 1 Peter 2: *Stones to a Building*
- ❖ John 15: *Vine to its Branches*
- ❖ 1 Cor. 12: *Body to its Head*

*“To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”*

Colossians 1:27



Point II: *Is it central to our Lives?*

Reason #2:

It removes us from the center...

*"I have been **crucified with Christ**.
It is no longer I who live..."*

Galatians 2:20



Point II: *Is it central to our Lives?*

*“Being **in Christ** and **united to him**, is the fundamental constitution of a Christian...”*

- Thomas Goodwin

“...the greatest, most honorable, and glorious of all graces that we are made partaker of.”

- John Owen



Point III: How do we make it central?

Three Encouragements...

- ❖ *Embrace the Story*
- ❖ *Embrace the Mystery*
- ❖ *Embrace the Centrality*



Point III: *How do we make it central?*

Embrace the Story...



Point III: How do we make it central?

Embrace the Story...

“We live in a fallen world full of unfulfilled desires, unmet expectations, broken relationships, hollow pursuits, fleeting pleasures, pain, sorrow, anxiety, depression, despair, fear and discouragement. Don’t you want to experience everlasting joy, life-changing awe, otherworldly wisdom, death-defying courage, never ending peace, and indescribable love? Then study the Word of the One who guarantees you all of this reward and more when you hear and obey him.”

- David Platt



Point III: How do we make it central?

Embrace the Story...

- ❖ Question: *Do you spend time in his living and active Word? Reading it... Studying it... Meditating on it... Praying it...*



Point III: How do we make it central?

Embrace the Mystery...

Ephesians 3

- ❖ “...the *unsearchable riches* of Christ,” (vs. 8)
- ❖ “To know the love of Christ that *surpasses knowledge...*” (vs. 19)



Point III: How do we make it central?

Embrace the Centrality...

- ❖ J-Curve: *We die & rise with Him*
- ❖ Reorients our Relationships
 - ❖ *With Unbelievers...*
 - ❖ *With Fellow Believers...*
- ❖ *Our Union with Christ is the **soil** in which our relationships **grow**.*



Point III: How do we make it central?

Embrace the Centrality...

*Our Union with Christ is the **soil** in which our relationships grow.*

❖ Question: *What relationship in your life is God challenging you to see differently in light of your Union with Christ?*



