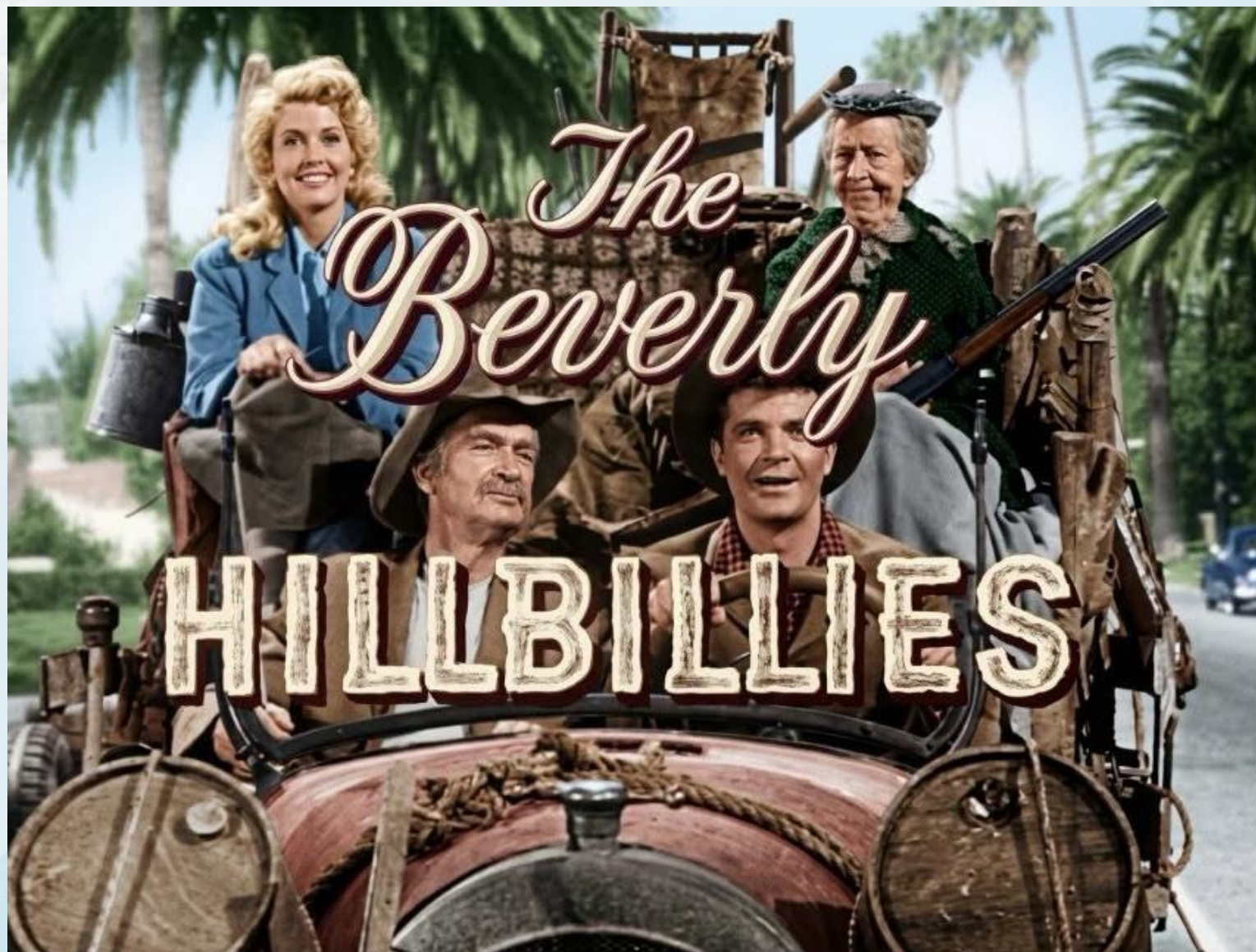


UNITED

*Living Out Our
Union with Christ*



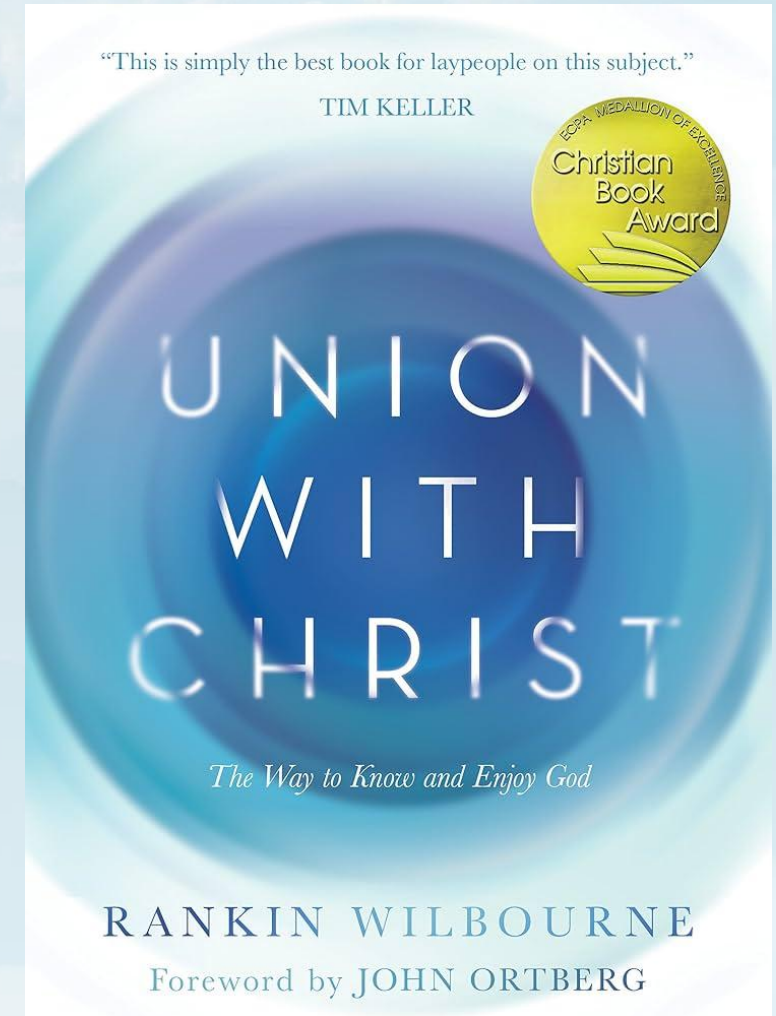


The Gap

Experience of Our Union with Christ



Union with Christ



Ephesians

Chapters 1 – 3: Identity in Christ

Chapters 4 – 6: Living out our Identity in Christ

Ephesians 4:1

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 3:14–21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.





Main Point:

Prayer is a path to experiencing union with Christ.



1. In prayer we are aware of our union with Christ.
2. In prayer we share in our union with Christ.
3. In prayer we declare our union with Christ.

1. In prayer we are aware of our union with Christ.

Ephesians 1:15–19

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of **wisdom** and of **revelation** in the **knowledge** of him, ¹⁸ having ***the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe . . .***



Ephesians 3:14–17a

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ ***so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—***

Ephesians 3:14–19

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—

that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to ***comprehend*** with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to ***know*** the love of Christ that ***surpasses knowledge***, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper



Vital Role of Prayer

“Your prayer life is the litmus test [measuring stick] for your relationship with God. How do you know if you’re really a Christian? How do you know? That’s a hard question, but I’ll tell you this: Your prayer life is the best way to find out. . . . It’s your prayer life that tells you what you’re really made of spiritually.”

Tim Keller

Smethurst, M. (2025). *Tim Keller on the Christian Life*. Ch. 7,
“Answering Heaven: How Prayer Unlocks Intimacy with God.” Crossway.

2. In prayer we share in our union with Christ.

Ephesians 3:16–19

¹⁶ . . . that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your **hearts** through faith—that **you**, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend **with all the saints** what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that **you** may be filled with all the fullness of God.



A Larger Family

“Union with Christ is not just about you and Jesus. You are not the only one, after all, who is in Christ. When you are united to Christ, you are connected to the whole body of Christ in a bond that is even closer than the ties that bind you with your own flesh and blood. The New Testament talks about this new family in a way that has always been staggering and countercultural.”

Wilbourne, R. (2016). *Union with Christ*. p. 264. David C. Cook.

A Band of Natural Enemies

“The church itself is not made up of natural ‘friends.’ It is made up of natural enemies. What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income, common politics, common nationality, common accents, common jobs, or anything of the sort. Christians come together, not because they form a natural collocation, but because they have been saved by Jesus Christ. . . . In this light, they are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus’ sake.”

D. A. Carson

Wilbourne, R. (2016). *Union with Christ*. pp. 265–166. David C. Cook.



2. In prayer we share in our union with Christ.

Ephesians 3:16–19

¹⁶ . . . that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend ***with all the saints*** what is the ***breadth and length and height and depth***, ¹⁹ and to know ***the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge***, that you may be ***filled with all the fullness of God***.

²⁰ Now ***to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us***, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Role of the Church

Ephesians 1:19b–23

¹⁹ . . . according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as ***head over all things to the church***, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:20–21

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be ***glory in the church*** and in Christ Jesus ***throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.***

CHURCHWIDE DAY OF

prayer

Subsplash Library Embed

3. In prayer we **declare** our union with Christ.



1st Direction:

We ***declare*** our union with Christ to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

2nd Direction:

We ***declare*** our union with Christ to a watching world around us.

3rd Direction:

We ***declare*** our union with Christ to the unreached.

3. In prayer we **declare** our union with Christ.

1st Direction:

We **declare** our union with Christ to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.



Ephesians 3:7–10

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that ***through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.***

3. In prayer we **declare** our union with Christ.



2nd Direction:

We **declare** our union with Christ to a watching world around us.

John 13:34–35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ ***By this all people will know that you are my disciples***, if you have love for one another.

John 17:23

²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, ***so that the world may know that you sent me*** and loved them even as you loved me.

3. In prayer we **declare** our union with Christ.

3rd Direction:

We **declare** our union with Christ to the unreached.



Ephesians 6:18–20

¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ ***and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,*** ²⁰ ***for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.***

3. In prayer we **declare** our union with Christ.

3rd Direction:

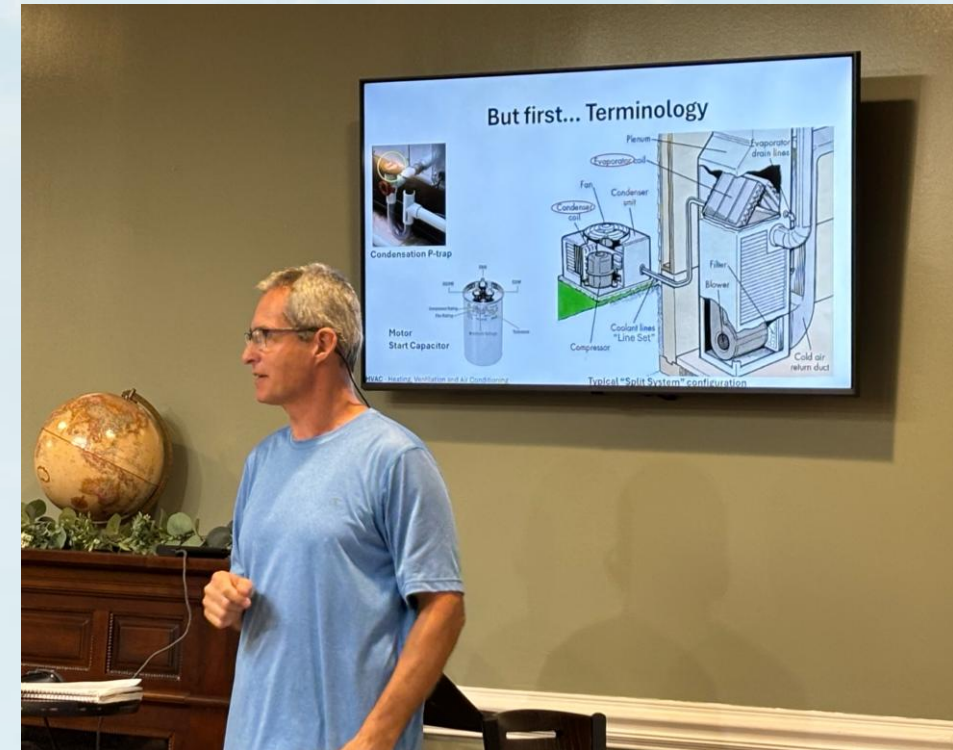
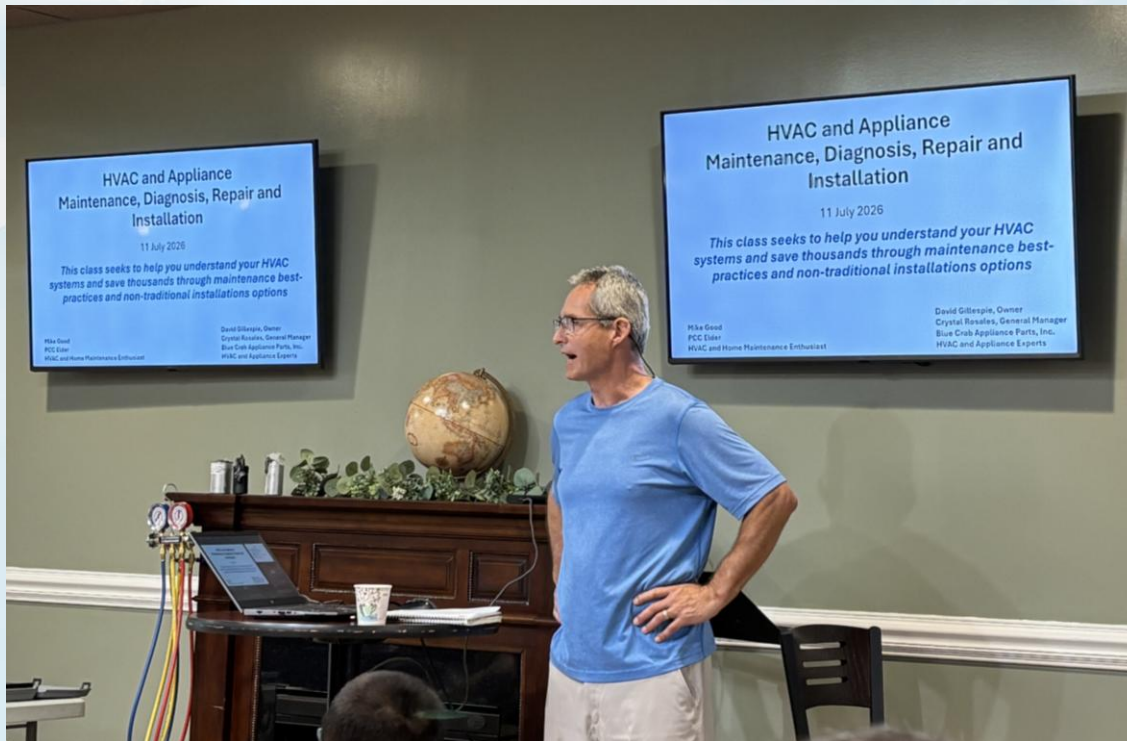
We **declare** our union with Christ to the unreached.



Revelation 7:9–11

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, ***from all tribes and peoples and languages***, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and ***they fell on their faces*** [every knee shall bow] before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be ***to our God forever and ever! Amen.***”

HVAC Maintenance & Repair



Main Point:

Prayer is a path to experiencing union with Christ.



1. In prayer we are **aware** of our union with Christ.
2. In prayer we **share** in our union with Christ.
3. In prayer we **declare** our union with Christ.

Clarifications:

- Not just prayer in general
 - Prayer centered on Christ
- Not repetitive prayer—like a ritual
 - Prayer as an expression of love for God
- Not prayer with sin in your heart
 - First step: Repentance



Let's Pray!

- Pray for greater awareness of God in prayer.
- Pray that I will experience union with Christ more deeply.
- Pray for my church family that we will share together in our union with Christ.
- Pray that our unity will be a testimony to those around us.
- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in other parts of the world.
- Pray for our Global Ministry Partners to have boldness and wisdom as they seek to reach the unreached.



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