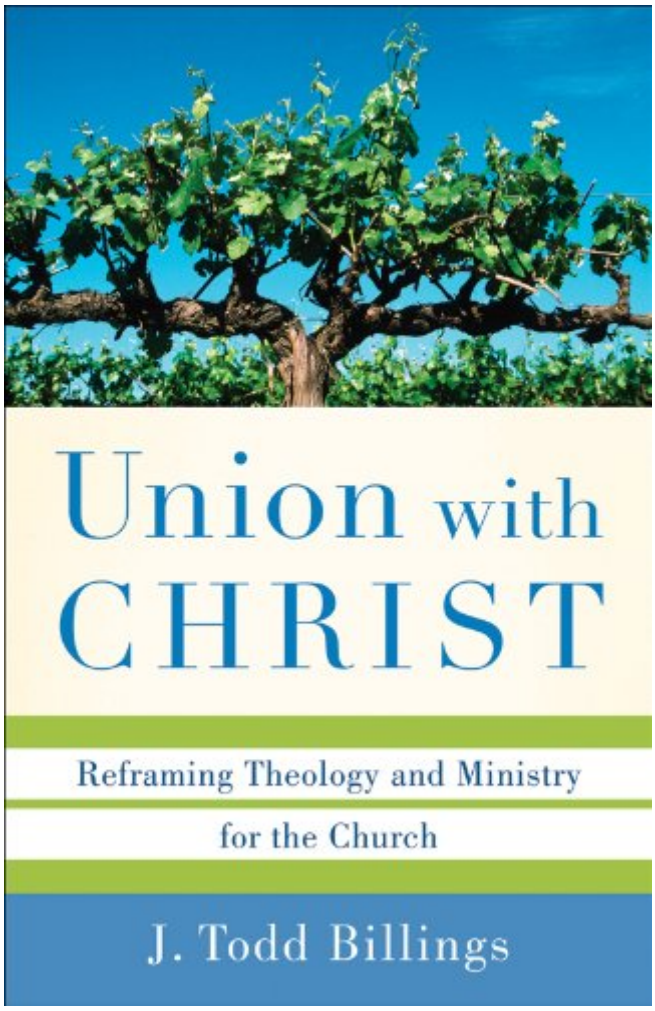
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Union With Christ: Reframing Theology And Ministry For The Church



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Synopsis

Accomplished theologian J. Todd Billings recovers the biblical theme of union with Christ for today's church, making a fresh contribution to the theological discussion with important applications for theology and ministry. Drawing on Scripture and the thought of figures such as Augustine, Calvin, Bavinck, and Barth, Billings shows how a theology of union with Christ can change the way believers approach worship, justice, mission, and the Christian life. He illuminates how union with Christ can change the theological conversation about thorny topics such as total depravity and the mystery of God. Billings also provides a critique and alternative to the widely accepted paradigm of incarnational ministry and explores a gospel-centered approach to social justice. Throughout, he offers a unique and lively exploration of what is so amazing about being united to the living Christ.

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Customer Reviews

This book has been a real find on the issue of Union With Christ. Billings takes 4 different aspects of our relationship with Christ and shows how it flows from union with Christ and its implications for our

daily walk with God in Christ. He explores Adoption, Total Depravity, the Mystery of God, and the Eucharist as means of demonstrating the reality and truth of how we are related to God in Christ. The thing that makes it so good is that it gives a different metaphor to show another perspective what the union really is and how it applies.The fourth chapter which involves the Eucharist and union with Christ also explores the Belhar Confession. This is the confession that expresses the Dutch Reformed Church's repudiation of apartheid in South Africa. It is a practical application of the Eucharist in healing wounds and uniting Christians across racial boundaries. The insights he shares called many divisions along the same lines that we have here in America.The major thing that I learned from the book is Calvin's teaching on double grace - Justification and Sanctification that come in our salvation through the cross of Christ. This is the first time I have read anything about this and it helped put the pieces together for me.All in all, this is a deep, readable book about our walk and union with Christ that has enriched my life greatly. I highly recommend it.

The body of this work is eye opening for anyone who is a strict Five Point Calvinist. The application section is also eye opening with its look at South African apartheid, how it started and how it was deconstructed in the South African Dutch Reformed Church. The critique of incarnational ministry was incredibly helpful with the doctrine of union with Christ in view.I thoroughly enjoyed this book and passed it along to a church member that teaches at an Evangelical theological seminary that suscribes to the incarnational ministry model for intercultural ministries. Hopefully some discussion with ensue there.I am planning on ordering a few extra copies to keep in my library and hand out from time-to-time.

that gave me new appreciation for and awe at the reality of my full-privileged inclusion at the Father's table. I am currently using it as a prompt for personal meditation.

Material is fresh and potent. Ideas are great. I would recommend the book until the last chapter, which is a bit too ambitious for the book.

intense, support for reasoning, good thing I had a dictionary at my fingertips, learned a lot, well write for the novice/beginner that I am.

Enjoyed this book. Our pastor asked all of the elders in the church to read it along side him and pray.

I’m not far enough into the book to give a credible review. However, I’m highly engaged by the subject matter, and I find Dr. Billings style of writing to be very readable. This seems like a very important book for pastors (like myself), churches and Christians of all kinds.

I read this book as part of a reading group. If I was reading it on my own I would not have finished it. Not by any means that it is poorly written. It is very academic and not a quick read. I will say that I appreciate the author’s insights and I found chapter 5 to be my favorite.

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