

RANKIN
WILBOURNE

UNION
WITH
CHRIST

The Way to Know and Enjoy God

Foreword by JOHN ORTBERG

Brief Review

Chapter 8 – A New Horizon

Where am I Headed?

UNION with Christ = New Destiny

“Jesus not only shows us who God is; He shows us who we, as human beings, are meant to be.”

(Page 160)

UNION with Christ = New Destiny

As a Christian

Your Destiny =

The Image of God Restored in You

UNION with Christ = New Destiny

REACHING THE GOAL

How does it look in real life?

- *Boasting in your weakness*
- *Rejoicing in your suffering*
- *Reassessing your wins (success)*

Porterbrook Video: Union with Christ – Unit 7: “How Union with Christ affects everyday life”

New Chapter

Chapter 9 – A New Purpose

What am I Here For?

UNION with Christ = New Identity

UNION with Christ = New Destiny

Our New Identity & New Destiny are all about becoming more and more like Christ.

Because of our Union with Christ, the Image of God is being restored in us.

But Why? What is the New Purpose?

A Contrasting Worldview: Humanism

Humanism is a democratic and ethical lifestance which affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. **It stands for the building of a more humane society** through an ethics based on human and other natural values in a spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. It is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality.

– *The International Humanist and Ethical Union*

A Song

What Were Adam and Eve Like When God Made Them?

[from Questions with Answers Vol. 1: God and Creation by Dana Dirksen](#)



Vestiges in the Human Conscience

Declaration of Independence, July 1776

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

We All “Get” or “Want” Happiness

But, What about Holiness?

BECAUSE – if our identity is in Christ, and our destiny is to have the Image of God fully restored in us ...

Then, Holiness = NEW Purpose

THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN
REDEEMED

God Redeemed You for Holiness

Exodus 19:4-6

Leviticus 11:44

Deuteronomy 9:4-6

John 17:17-19

Ephesians 1:4

Ephesians 5:25-27

I Thess. 4:3

1 Peter 1:13-16

Hebrews 12:10-14

“Holiness is the goal of our redemption” – J. I. Packer

Defining Holiness

Simple Definition: “To be holy means to be set apart for God’s purposes”
(Zech. 14:20-21)

Holiness of God

... every effort to define the holiness of God ultimately winds up by saying: God is holy means God is God. ... The very god-ness of God means that he is separate from all that is not God. There is an infinite qualitative difference between Creator and creature. God is one of a kind...In a class by himself. In that sense he is utterly holy. But then you have said no more than that he is God.

... God is the absolute reality beyond which is only more of God. When asked for his name in [Exodus 3:14](#), he said, “I am who I am.” His being and his character are utterly undetermined by anything outside himself. He is not holy because he keeps the rules. He wrote the rules! God is not holy because he keeps the law. The law is holy because it reveals God. God is absolute. Everything else is derivative.

Defining Holiness

[1 Samuel 2:2](#): “There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you”

[Isaiah 40:25](#): “To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.”

[Hosea 11:9](#): “I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst.”

*In the end, God is holy in that he is God and not man. . . . **He is incomparable.** **His holiness is his utterly unique divine essence.** It determines all that he is and does and is determined by no one.*

His holiness is what he is as God which no one else is or ever will be. Call it his majesty, his divinity, his greatness, his value as the pearl of great price.

-- [John Piper, “Holiness beyond Words”](#)

Purpose of Our Redemption is to
Share in God's Holiness

So, What is your Attitude
towards Holiness?

The Big Broccoli in the Sky



Why we may NOT Prize Holiness

1. Undesirable
2. Unnecessary
3. Unattainable

