

RANKIN
WILBOURNE

UNION
WITH
CHRIST

The Way to Know and Enjoy God

Foreword by JOHN ORTBERG

Brief Review

Chapter 7 – A New Identity

*How does Union with Christ
affect “Who I am”?*



Problems with “Choose Your Own Identity” Approach:

1. Accent on unlimited freedom often leads to paralysis
2. Leads to anxiety
3. Having more choices makes us discontent
4. The freedom enthroning narrative of “Choose Your Own Identity” ends up robbing us of the very freedom it promises
5. This mindset negatively affects how we view God

Contrast: Union with Christ

1. Union with Christ gives us permission to rest
2. We are enabled to truly be content in all circumstances
3. We are enabled to be content in all circumstances
4. We are most free when we have the right boundaries
5. God is closer and more intimate than we ever imagined

Let's Get Practical...

- Who am I in Christ?
 - I am loved (1 John 4:10)
 - I am free (Gal 5:1)
 - I am a child of God (John 1:12)
 - I am a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)
 - Etc.
- Why do we have trouble getting these concepts to stick?
- How do we keep “setting our minds” on Christ?
- Bible’s metaphors: adoption and marriage
 - Both have a legal and relational aspect to them
 - We can grow in the relational aspect

Union with Christ

Chapter 8

A New Horizon:

Where am I Headed?

Car Commercials

<https://youtu.be/NcGhLcVqxf0>

<https://youtu.be/tmJvQ7KGTU>

These Two Car Commercials

What are some common themes within these two commercials?

What are they trying to convey?

Chapter 8 – A New Horizon: *Where am I Headed?*

“If you have your *why* for your
life, you can get by with
almost any *how*”

F. Nietzsche (page 158)

Chapter 8 – A New Horizon

What are you doing with your life?

Where are you heading?

UNION with CHRIST = New DESTINY

What is that Destiny?

UNION with Christ = New Destiny

DEFINITION of DESTINY

the events that will necessarily happen to a particular person or thing in the future.

"she was unable to control her own destiny"

the hidden power believed to control what will happen in the future; fate.

"he believes in destiny"

UNION with Christ = New Destiny

Starting Point

WHERE WE CAME FROM

Image of God in Man

Genesis 1:26-27

Significance? (page 156)

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WHAT'S OUR PROBLEM?

Marred Masterpiece (page 158)

SIN...SIN...SIN...SIN

Consequences: John 15:1-5

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How are we to know and see the
perfect image of God?

John 1:18

Colossians 1:15

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“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

The Image of God Restored in You

What this doesn't mean

- *Self & personality (next)*
- *Ephesians 2:10*
- *Page 163*



PERSONALITY

“Life is but a Weaving” (the Tapestry Poem)

“My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me.
I cannot choose the colors
He weaveth steadily.

Oft’ times He weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not ’til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver’s skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.”

— [Corrie ten Boom](#)

UNION with Christ = New Destiny

The Image of God Restored in You

So, what does this mean?

- *Horizon = 1 John 3:2*
- *Present Day = Col. 3:10*
- *Our Confidence = John 17:22*

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)*