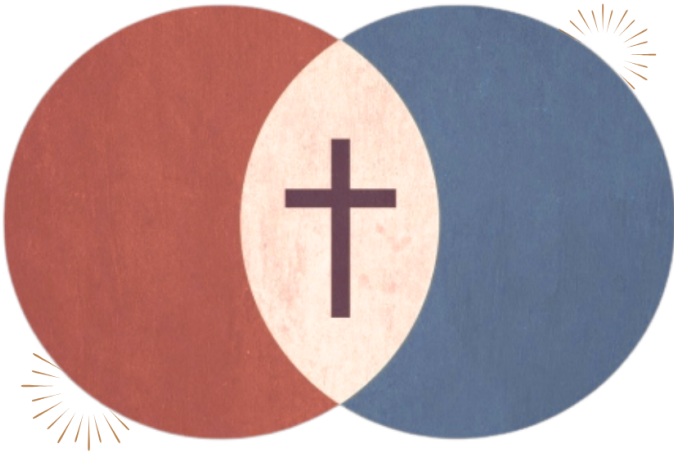


COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Women's Conference



HOW OUR UNION WITH CHRIST
CHANGES EVERYTHING

Speaker: Julie Lamey

APRIL

17th
STARTS: 6:30 PM

18th
ENDS: 5:00 PM

MARANATHA BIBLE & MISSIONARY
CONFERENCE CENTER
4759 Lake Harbor Rd
Norton Shores, MI 49441

Julie Lamey

Guest Speaker Bio



Julie Lamey has been married to her husband and pastor, Paul, for 27 years. They have served together at Grace Community Church in Huntsville, AL for 24 years, where Paul also teaches for The Expositor's Seminary. They have 4 children, ages 23 to 16 (Johnny, Will, Maggie, and Emma), with the blessed addition of two daughters-in-law in the last 2 years. Emma is with us this weekend and turns 17 on Sunday!

Julie enjoys Monday morning coffee dates with her husband, any time she can get with their children, and the joy of being able to serve with all of them in their church. She loves serving alongside other women in the church, cultivating relationships through mutual discipleship and encouragement, and teaching in her ladies' small group. She also enjoys serving the body as part of the music team.

She is extremely grateful for the Lord's kindness in her own life, to save and continually sanctify her, and thankful to be here with you all this weekend!

Conference Schedule

Friday, April 17

- 5:00 PM Arrival & Registration
- 6:00 PM Refreshments & Mingle
- 7:00 PM **Session 1 - The Glorious Doctrine of Union with Christ - Introduction**
- 8:00 PM Breakout Discussion
- 8:30 PM Closing Song and Prayer
- 8:45 PM Free time for fellowship

Saturday, April 18

- 7:00 AM Prayer time - Lodge Lower Lounge
- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM **Session 2 - The Glorious Blessings of Union with Christ**
- 10:00 AM Breakout Discussion
- 10:30 AM Closing Song and Prayer
Short Break
- 10:45 AM **Session 3 - The Glorious Christ: The Substance of our Union**
- 11:30 AM Breakout Discussion
- 11:50 AM Closing Song and Prayer
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Free Time
- 3:00 PM **Session 4 - The Glorious Result of our Union: Complete in Christ**
- 4:15 PM Breakout Discussion
- 4:45 PM Closing Song and Prayer
- 5:00 PM Leave for Home!

SESSION 1

The Glorious Doctrine of Union with Christ - Introduction

1. What is union with Christ?

2. How does it happen?

a. Through faith: hearing and believing the gospel (Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5)

b. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13; Col. 2:11-12)

1. Placed into Christ

2. Placed into His body (the church)

c. Through Identification

1. In His death (Rom. 6:3)

2. In His burial (Rom. 6:4)

3. In His resurrection and ascension (Rom. 6:5)

4. In His sufferings (Rom. 8:16-17)

3. What realities does union with Christ accomplish in us?

a. Provision: Every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3)

b. Identity: "in Christ" (Eph. 1)

c. Power: equipped to walk (Eph. 1:19)

d. Purpose: To the praise of His glory (Eph. 1)

SESSION 1 - Discussion Questions

1. How would you simply *define* union with Christ? (#1 in the outline)
2. Why is it an important doctrine for us to understand?
3. How would you *explain* union with Christ? (#2 in the outline)
4. What are the two resulting realities of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Col. 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 12:13). Can these realities be separated?
5. What is the difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the act of baptism by immersion as a believer? (Col. 2:11-12; Matt. 28:19...notice the command given, and what precedes baptism in this verse)
6. In what ways are we identified with Christ?
7. Why is it crucial for our identity to be rooted in our union with Christ?
8. How is this different from what our culture says about identity?
9. What provision have we been given by virtue of our union with Christ? (Eph. 1:3)

SESSION 2

The Glorious Blessings of Union with Christ

Ephesians 1:3-14

1. Chosen by the Father (v. 4)

a. Predestined to adoption (v. 5)

b. Poured out His grace on us generously (v. 6)

2. Redeemed by the Son (v. 7)

a. Forgiveness (v. 7)

b. Riches of His grace in wisdom and insight (v. 9)

c. Made known the mystery of His will (v. 9)

d. We are His inheritance (v. 11)

3. Sealed by the Spirit (v. 13)

a. The seal of the Spirit (v. 13)

b. The promise of the Spirit (v. 13)

c. The guarantee of the Spirit (v. 14)

d. The result of the Spirit (v. 14)

SESSION 2 - Discussion Questions

1. What is the main point or goal that Paul is communicating in Eph. 1? (vv. 6, 12, 14)
2. How does Paul show us the Trinitarian nature of our redemption in this passage? (v. 3-4, 6-7, 13-14)
3. In Ephesians 1:3-14, who is the main subject and actor in redemption?
4. Who are the recipients of these acts of redemption?
5. What truth does this communicate to us about the nature of God and the nature of salvation?
6. Why might this be a difficult truth for some to understand and embrace?
7. What is the significance of our forgiveness being "according to" the riches of His grace, rather than just "out of" the riches of His grace?
8. What does that tell us about the disposition of God toward us?
9. How do we receive this abundance of forgiveness? (Eph. 1:13)
10. What does this belief in the gospel comprise?
11. What is the seal of the Spirit a mark of? (Eph. 1:14 "God's own possession")
12. How does the sealing of the Spirit give us assurance and comfort? (Eph. 1:13-14)

SESSION 3

The Glorious Christ: The Substance of our Union

Colossians 1:15-20

1. He is the image of the invisible God (v. 15)

a. God is invisible

b. Christ has made Him known

1. In Christ we behold God's glory

2. In Christ we share in God's glory

2. He is the Firstborn of all creation (v. 15)

3. He is the Creator of all things (v. 16)

a. Christ is the sphere of creation

b. Christ is the agent of creation

c. Christ is the goal of creation

4. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together (v. 17)

a. Christ is the ruler of the universe

b. Christ is the cohesion of the universe

5. He is the head of the body, the church (v. 18)

6. All the fullness dwells in Him (v. 19)

- a. Christ is the fullest expression of God in the flesh

- b. Christ is fully God and fully man at the same time

- c. Believers have the fullness of Christ dwelling in them

7. All things are reconciled to God through Him (v. 20)

SESSION 3 - Discussion Questions

Colossians 1:15-20

1. Why is it impossible for anyone to see God? (Col. 1:15; John 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:16)
2. What does it mean that Christ is the image of the invisible God? (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; John 1:14)
3. How should knowing that we share in God's glory change our perspective and motivations? (John 17:22; 2 Cor. 3:18)
4. What does Paul mean when he says that Christ is the Firstborn of all creation? (Col. 1:15- *hint...v. 16 gives the reason for v. 15)
5. What are some implications of Christ being the goal of creation? (Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:18) How does this help inform what we prioritize and make time for now?
6. Paul says in Col. 1:17 that in Christ, all things hold together. What renewed hope does this give us each and every day? How can we intentionally think about all of life through the lens of this encouraging truth?
7. What is the fullness that dwells in Christ? (Col. 2:9)
8. What does this mean for us if we are united with Christ? (Col. 2:9-10)
9. Paul says that a day is coming when all things in heaven and earth will be rightly reconciled to Christ. How does this help us to think about and respond to the injustices, evils, and brokenness of this fallen world? (Col. 1:20; 2:15; Rev. 21:5)

SESSION 4

The Glorious Result of our Union: Complete in Christ

1. We are complete (by our union)- Col. 2:9-10

2. We are being made complete (through our sanctification)

a. Worshipful mindset (Col. 3:1-4)

b. Empowered obedience (Col. 1:10-12)

c. Intentional fellowship (Col. 3:15-16)

d. Redemptive Suffering (Col. 1:24)

1. Suffering teaches us

2. Suffering protects us

3. Suffering disciplines us

4. Suffering produces endurance

5. Suffering perfects us

3. We will be finally complete (in our glorification)- Col. 1:22; 3:4

a. Basis for our hope

b. Motivation for our endurance

c. Results in our worship

SESSION 4 - Discussion Questions

1. Colossians speaks of two concurrent realities in regards to our completeness in Christ. What are they? (Col. 2:10; Col. 1:28)
2. What is the importance of our mindset in becoming more like Christ? (Col. 3:1-4)
3. Where does our ability to walk in obedience come from? (Col. 1:11; Eph. 1:16)
4. How does this encourage us when we feel weak, powerless, or discouraged?
5. What is the importance of being united to the body of Christ in our sanctification? (Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; Col. 3:12-16)
6. Is it possible to grow into Christ's likeness if we are separated or isolated from the body? Why or why not?
7. How should our growing Christlikeness evidence itself? (Col. 3:14; Eph. 4:15-16)
8. What is the future promise of our union with Christ? (Col. 1:22; 3:4)
9. What are the implications of this promise? (We covered 3-can you think of others)?
10. What is the main point and ultimate goal of our union with Christ? (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14)
11. What have you learned, been reminded of, or encouraged by this weekend, and how will it shape how you think and live?

Book Recommendations

Who Am I? Identity in Christ by Jerry Bridges

A direct, simple, honest presentation of biblical truth, *Who Am I?* demonstrates for believers in Union with Christ that they can and should rightfully claim for themselves an unshakeable, lifelong, personal foundation of confidence in one thing and one thing alone: the gospel of a victorious, resurrected Savior.

Union with Christ: The Blessings of Being in Him by Sinclair Ferguson

Who are you, really? Many people in the church today face an identity crisis. But the Apostle Paul had no question about what it meant to be a Christian: he was "in Christ." Recovering this New Testament phrase is the key to understanding our identity and enjoying all the blessings of salvation. In this book, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson introduces the defining reality of the Christian life—our union with Christ. As we embrace the transformative truth of being "in Him," we can live out of the fullness of joy, purpose, and assurance that the gospel brings.

The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges

Run in such a way as to get the prize 1 Corinthians 9:24

Holiness is the Christian's joint venture with God. Be ye holy as I am holy command the Lord. This book helps us see clearly what we should rely on God to do and what we are responsible to do for ourselves.

The Practice of Godliness by Jerry Bridges

Godliness has value for all things 1 Timothy 4:8

What makes us Godly? Scripture says it gives us everything we need to be Godly. This book examines what it means to grow in Christian character and helps us establish the foundation upon which that character is built. This is the sequel to *The Pursuit of Holiness*

Changed Into His Image: God's Plan for Transforming your Life by Jim Berg

Trying to grow spiritually without understanding God's plan for transforming your life is like trying to put a puzzle together without looking at the picture on the box. We must understand the "big Picture" of how God intends for us to change and grow. If you don't your life is unstable, growth sporadic, and attempts to help other ineffective.

Transforming Grace – Living Confidently in God's Unfailing Love by Jerry Bridges

Grace is not just for beginners in Christ. Funny how the exceeding riches of God's grace seem to run out the moment we're saved. From then on, we tend to base our relationship with Him on our performance rather than on His Grace. Of course, God continues to deal with us on the basis of his grace, whether or not we understand it. It's just that when we don't, we forgo the abundant freedoms that come from not having to measure up.

The Discipline of Grace – God's Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of holiness Jerry Bridges

We know we need grace. Without it we'd never come to Christ in the first place. But being a Christian is more than just coming to Christ. It's about growing and becoming more like Jesus-It's about pursuing holiness. The pursuit of holiness is hard work, and that's where we turn from grace to discipline- and often make a big mistake.

The Transforming Power of the Gospel by Jerry Bridges

The Apostle Paul says to be transformed by the Gospel. But for many Christians, figuring out how to approach spiritual transformation is elusive. This book helps us to understand what we have available to us the ultimate power source for true spiritual growth.

The Fruitful Life: The Overflow of God's Love Through You by Jerry Bridges

As we become serious followers of Christ, we want to live loving, joyful, anxiety-free lives. Yet loving our enemies seems impossible. Even being patient with our family is often difficult. How can we put on the gentle garments of grace when we're so busy battling our old behavior patterns?

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray

"Remain in My Love" John 15:9 Many Christians go to church each week burdened by guilt and shame, believing they are unworthy of God's full love. In *Abide in Christ*, Andrew Murray reminds every Christian that God promises His constant presence with them. Andrew Murray's 31-day spiritual guide offers timeless meditations and practical lessons. Move from a divided heart to wholehearted surrender. Your hunger for God's presence is made to be satisfied experience a deep, authentic, and ongoing connection with Jesus.

Respectable Sins – Confronting the Sins we Tolerate by Jerry Bridges

Are we so preoccupied with the major sins of our society that we have lost sight of our need to deal with our own more subtle sin?

Trusting God – Even When Life Hurts by Jerry Bridges

Circumstances we find ourselves in often defy explanation. When unexpected situations arise that appear unjust, irrational, or even dreadful, we feel confused and frustrated. And before long we begin to doubt God's concern for us or His control over our lives. In an effort for Jerry Bridges to strengthen his own trust in God during a time adversity he wrote this book.

Union with Christ – The Way to Know and Enjoy God by Tim Keller

"What is the gospel?" union with Christ is probably not what springs to mind. For many, union with Christ feels vague and shadowy, not central or basic. And this loss has real and drastic consequences for how we see ourselves and experience life with God.

Consider the Lilies: Finding Perfect Peace in the Character of God by Jonny Ardavanis

This book offers a heartfelt and deeply encouraging reflection on God's care for His people. Rooted in Jesus' words from Matthew 6:28 –where He invites us to "consider the lilies" and to trust in God's provision — this book is a much-needed reminder to shift our focus from earthly anxieties to the steadfast love of our heavenly Father.

The Brokenhearted Evangelist – by Jeremy Walker

How do Christians develop the sense of urgency to see lost sinners saved? What motivates our evangelism? We must have the character of the brokenhearted evangelist, the David of Psalm 51, who recognizes the greatness of his own sin, looks to God for forgiveness, then recognizes his undeniable obligation to teach transgressors God's ways.

It is out of the
measureless fullness
of grace and truth,
of wisdom and power,
of goodness and love,
of righteousness and faithfulness
which resides in him
that God's people draw for
all their needs in this life
and for the hope of the life to come.
There is no truth, therefore,
more suited to impart
confidence and strength,
comfort and joy in the Lord
than this one of

Union with Christ

Redemption: Accomplished and Applied

by John Murray