

Lesson Eight – “*Unio Mystica: Am I Alone?*”

Introduction

In this tour we have the privilege of pondering exactly what it is that Christ has purchased for us on the Cross: not simply salvation from hell, but also an invitation into a mystical union (the Latin is *unio mystica*) with God.

This profound mystery lies at the heart not only of corporate church life, but also of the individual believer’s everyday experience. Here, Dr. Tackett says, is the greatest of all the wonders to contemplate: that the God of the universe has chosen to make His dwelling with us and in us.

Quote Unquote

What did they say? Fill in the blanks as you watch this presentation.

1. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I _____, you also will _____. –John 14:19
2. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man _____ in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. –John 15:5
3. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another _____ to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. –John 14:16-17
4. In him you too are being built together to become a _____ in which God lives by his Spirit. –Ephesians 2:22
5. I have given them the _____ that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. –John 17:22-23
6. There is _____ body and _____ Spirit—just as you were called to _____ hope when you were called—_____ Lord, _____ faith, _____ baptism. –Ephesians 4:3-5
7. A new command I give you: _____ . As I have loved you, so you must _____. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you _____. –John 13:34-35
8. When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be _____. Then your Father, who sees what is done _____, will reward you. –Matthew 6:3-4
9. As the deer _____ for streams of water, so my soul _____ for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. –Psalm 42:1-2

Notes or Questions

While watching the video, use this space to record your thoughts, any facts you want to remember, questions that arise, etc.

*“You know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”
John 14:17*

TRUTH 1 – One on One

God has called each of us into an intimate relationship with Him.

1. In what way does being saved go beyond merely escaping the final judgment and entering eternal life? God “saves” us for what purpose?
2. Describe your present relationship with God. Would you call it intimate? Distant? Neither? How much of your relationship has to do with “hearing His voice” and sensing His love, not just intellectually knowing *about* Him?
3. What measures can we take to grow closer to the Lord? Are there regular practices and disciplines that would help us “abide” in Him? What might a plan of action look like?

TRUTH 2 – Together with Him

God has called us to form one body, the church, that is intimately related to Him.

1. Why is there no such thing as individual Christianity? Have you tried to follow Christ alone? In what ways do we need others in our endeavor to obey the Lord?
2. What does God want believers to do *for* and *with* one another? Pick your favorite New Testament epistle (such as Colossians or 1 Peter) and highlight every command God gave to His people in that letter. Which of them are you doing faithfully, at least among your closest friends and family members? Which commands would you like to work on more?
3. Why is it important not to let our own relationship to God become a substitute for involvement with other Christians in the church, or vice versa? If you have ever made this mistake, what was the result?

TRUTH 3 – Barriers to Intimacy

We distance ourselves from the Lord and from one another whenever we strive for personal significance instead of finding God's love sufficient.

1. What keeps us from deeper intimacy with God? Scrambling to “make a mark” in life? Pursuing wealth or success or popularity? Other distractions or misplaced priorities? Let the Lord speak to you as you consider this. What would He have us do differently?
2. What keeps the church from oneness and unity in Christ, both locally and on a larger scale? When are doctrinal differences handled wrongly?
3. If the local church is really about relationships (per the “one another” commands in Scripture), where can you find your best opportunities to connect with and help other believers in a significant way?

Wrap-Up

Christianity is not primarily a moral or religious system, but rather an intimate and personal relationship with your Creator. But such a relationship can grow deeper only when we know what He desires from us and then do it.

As Jesus said, “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and *show myself to him*” (John 14:21, emphasis added). We should constantly reread Scripture so that we can hear afresh and follow His commands.

Check It Out

For your reference and further review, here are some of the key Scripture passages that were mentioned in the video you just watched.

Psalm 42:1-2

Isaiah 55:1-2

Matthew 6:1-18

John 13:34-35; 14:16-21; 15:5-12; 17:3,20-23

Romans 12:4-5, 10, 16; 14:19; 15:5,7

2 Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 2:20; 6:2

Ephesians 1:9-10; 2:19-22; 4:3-5, 11-14,32; 5:21,31-32

Philippians 2:3

Colossians 1:27; 3:16

1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11

James 5:16

1 Peter 1:22