

# Lesson 8 Outline - Unio Mystica: Am I Alone?

- I. **Introduction – What is a mystery?**
  - A. Sphere design - review of the family and church
  - B. Scriptural themes of intimacy, union, & oneness
- II. **The Mystical Union**
  - A. Between a husband and wife
  - B. Between Christ and His church
  - C. Between God and man – the Unio Mystica
    - 1. Colossians 1:27 "Christ in you"
    - 2. John 15:5 "If a man remains in me and I in him"
    - 3. John 14:16-17 "for he lives with you and will be in you"
    - 4. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 "God's Spirit lives in you"
  - D. Unique and particular social laws and the blurring of spheres
- III. **Unity - The Body of Christ - Making many One**
  - A. Many members – we form one body with unique gifts and roles
  - B. The Mystery of Christ – "... for you are all one in Christ Jesus"
  - C. Jesus' vision for the church
    - 1. John 17: 20-23 " ...that all of them may be one ...so the world may believe that you have sent me ...may they be brought to complete unity ..."
    - 2. Oneness – the many reciprocal or "one-another" commands
- IV. **Hunger for significance**
  - A. Tassels – Numbers 15 - " ...so you will ...not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes" Also see Deuteronomy 22 and Matthew 23
  - B. Jesus' teaching - "everything they do is for men to see" - We want to be noticed and gain recognition from others – Matthew 6 "They have received their reward in full"
  - C. Source of significance drive - from God and should be fulfilled through His covenant relationships; ultimately fulfilled only by Him
  - D. Post Game Party – Saul's jealousy of David after the victory over Goliath
- V. **Conclusion - "God has made us for Himself and our hearts are restless until we find our rest in Him"**
  - A. Psalm 42:1-2 "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God"

# Leader Guide for Tour 8

## Introduction



Lesson 8 takes us to the southeast sector of the Truth compass for a tour of the *socialsphere* that Dr. Tackett characterizes as the heart and soul of Christianity: the *Mystical Union* (Latin, *Unio Mystica*) between God and man. Here, in the most intimate and profoundly mysterious sphere of the "Intimate Three" (family, church, and the God-man relationship), we have the privilege of pondering exactly what it is that Christ has purchased for us at the price of His precious blood shed on the cross for our sins: not simply salvation from hell, but an invitation into the Godhead itself, where we may experience the incomprehensible wonder of oneness with the Creator of the universe.

## Themes

In our discussion of the family, we saw that the apostle Paul likens the bond between Christ and the church to the oneness shared between husband and wife (Ephesians 5:31-32). This oneness, he concludes, is a "profound *mystery*" – a concept that is difficult to fully grasp. On this tour, we proceed to examine an even deeper and *more* mysterious aspect of this bond: namely, that it is experienced *not only* within marriage and the corporate context of the body of Christ, *but also* on an intimate, personal level by the individual believer. This, says Dr. Tackett, is the greatest of all the wonders we will contemplate during the course of our study: that the God of the universe has come to make His dwelling both *with* us and *in* us.

Dr. Tackett marshals an impressive array of scriptural passages and biblical images to illustrate both facets of this glorious truth. On the *corporate* side, he draws our attention to Jesus' discourse on the vine and the branches and the importance of "abiding" in Him (John 15:5); the high priestly prayer of John 17, in which Christ speaks again and again of the oneness shared between the Father, the Son, and the body of believers ("I in them and You in Me"); the several passages in which Paul emphasizes the importance of unity in the church and the mutual edification of the various members of the body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:11-16; Galatians 3:28-29); and the many "one another" commandments with which Jesus and the apostles set forth their vision for our common life as Christians, including John 13:34-35, Romans 12:10, Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:16, and 1 Peter 1:22. On the *personal, individual* side, he cites Jesus' statement to Nicodemus about being "born again" (John 3:7); His promise of the indwelling Spirit (John 14:16-17); Paul's declaration that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17); and the apostle's astounding claim that "Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). In connection with this discussion, Dr. Tackett points out that we must be careful not to "blur the spheres" by applying the unique and particular social laws of one realm to another realm – for example, by assuming that we can meet our need for Christian fellowship by worshiping God individually, or that we can enter into the wonder of the *UnioMystica* simply by attending services at the local church.

As in all of the social spheres, there is potential here for the emergence of dysfunctions and pathologies as the effects of the *Cosmic Battle* make themselves felt at the very core of man's relationship with God. Interestingly enough, marital imagery arises again in this connection: the Lord warns His people many times in Scripture against the danger of "prostituting" themselves or "going a-whoring" after other gods and idols (see Deuteronomy 15:38-39). Just as spouses are to seek fulfillment of the *sexual* drive exclusively within the bonds of the marriage covenant, so we as believers are to confine our quest for *significance* to the covenant relationship with the Creator. For it is this powerful human hunger for significance, says Dr. Tackett, when directed outside of God's covenant relationships, that constitutes the single most formidable barrier to intimacy, communion, and oneness. All too often, we forsake the Lord and cut ourselves off from others in attempt to puff up our own sense of self-importance.

## Points to Watch for

Especially important to the overall message of this lesson is the idea that *oneness with God* represents the heart of the Christian Gospel; in other words, that Christianity is not primarily a moral, philosophical, or religious system, but rather a deep, intimate, and living *relationship* with a *personal* Creator. This, to return to a point made in Lesson 4, is the essence of "eternal life" – i.e., *knowing God* just as intimately as Adam knew Eve. It is important to help students come to the place where they can not only begin to *understand* this concept rationally – something we can never fully achieve – but also *feel* the wonder of it in a profoundly affecting way. *This* is the point at which the *transformational* aspect of this tour will come home to participants most tellingly. Some students may also need to wrestle with the implications of Dr. Tackett's warning about the danger of "blurring the spheres."

# The Truth Project – Lesson 8: Unio Mystica

John 14:19-20

<sup>19</sup>Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and **you are in me, and I am in you.**"

God & Man – Divine **Intimacy** with man  
 One of the key defining points of Christianity

Ephesians 5:31-32 (ESV) – The 'Unio Mystica'

<sup>31</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup>**This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**"

This tour will center on how God has somehow entered into an intimate relationship with man

- 'Unio Mystica' : Intimacy - Union - Oneness

Colossians 1:27

<sup>27</sup>...the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**"

John 15:5

<sup>5</sup>"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and **I in him**, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

2 Corinthians 5:17

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ**, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Galatians 2:20

<sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ **lives in me.**

Astounding:

- God speaks and all of creation comes into being
- The God of the universe would reveal Himself to us.
- That God worked through man to write His message to us.
- That God would Himself become a man for our redemption
- THAT THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE DWELLS WITHIN ME

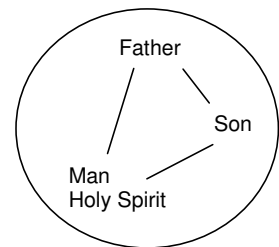
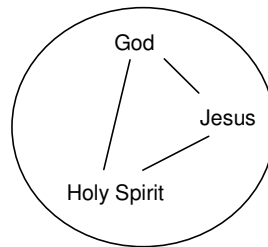
Do we act and live like we believe this?

John 14:16-17

<sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, **for he lives with you and will be in you.**"

## Descriptions & Names of the New man

The redeemed	Children of God
Saints	Sons of God
Priests	Beloved
Called out ones	Wear white robes
The people of God	Born from above



## Terms of Intimacy/Relationship:

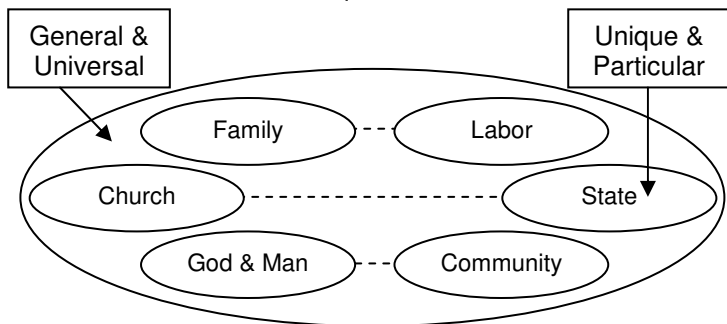
- Abba Father
- Children – heirs – sons - friends



It is more than being saved from hell – we are brought into an intimate relationship.

- God has invited us into the Godhead – adopted us
- Brought us into an incredible relationship & fellowship

## Social Institutions – Unique & Particular Social Laws



Blurring the Spheres...

### Social Laws:

- *Unique and Particular* - social laws that apply to specific spheres (relationships)
- *General and Universal* - Apply to everything

When we begin to “blur” these social laws that are unique to a specific sphere and apply them to others we get all mixed up – distort God’s design.

Example: In the “labor” sphere – a man refusing to work for a woman, citing a verse pertaining to the “family”.

Another danger is to “blur” the spheres themselves. An example is blurring the “Church” and “God & Man”. A couple of possible results:

- We don’t feel we need to go to church because we have God with us all the time. In this case we deny what God has designed for the Church.
- We go to church on Sunday and worship God there and not participate in the intimate relationship God has designed for us during the rest of the week.

When we look at a specific sphere we need to make sure we understand the social & moral laws pertaining to that sphere.

### The Mystical Union

1 Corinthians 12:27

<sup>27</sup>“Now you are the **body of Christ**, and each one of you is a part of it.”

Romans 12:4-5

<sup>4</sup>“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ **we who are many form one body**, and each member belongs to all the others.”

1 Corinthians 10:17

<sup>17</sup>“...**we, who are many, are one body...**”

### The ‘Mystery’ of Christ

Romans 16:25-26

<sup>25</sup>“...the **mystery** hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup>but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God...”

Ephesians 1:9-10

<sup>9</sup>“And he made known to us the **mystery** of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”.

Ephesians 3:6

<sup>6</sup>“This **mystery** is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of **one body**, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:28-29

<sup>28</sup>“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, **for you are all one in Christ Jesus**. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

## The 'Mystery' of Christ

"Jew nor Greek" – **no racial barriers**

"Slave nor free" – **no economic class barriers**

"Male nor female" – **no gender barriers**

## Ephesians 2:19-22 – The Church

<sup>19</sup>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in Him you too are being **built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**"

## John 17:20-23 – Jesus' Vision for the Church

<sup>20</sup>"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, **just as you are in me and I am in you.** May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me... <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, **that they may be one as we are one: <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me.** May they be brought to complete **unity** to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

## Back to Unity

Oneness

Union

Intimacy

Intimate Fellowship

## Ephesians 4:3-5

<sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the **unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism;"

## The Flock

Love one another (1 Pet 1:22)

Bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2)

Pray for one another (Jam 5:16)

Forebear one another (Eph 4:2)

Be kind to one another (Eph 4:32)

Admonish one another (Col 3:16)

Build up one another (Rom 14:19)

Give preference to one another (Rom 12:10)

Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)

Encourage one another (1 Thess 5:11)

Submit to one another (Eph 5:21)

Serve one another (Gal 5:13)

Accept one another (Rom 15:7)

Be devoted to one another (Rom 12:10)

Teach one another (Col 3:16)

Comfort one another (1 Thess 4:18)

Forgive one another (Eph 4:32)

Be of the same mind with one another (Rom 15:5)

Regard one another as more important (Phil 2:3)

## John 13:34-35 - Jesus' Vision for the Church

<sup>34</sup>"A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

How should the world see us? **Vs** How does the world see us?

Pathologies: Any condition that is a departure or deviation from the true design.

- Dr. Tackett uses "pathology" to describe areas of distortion within the social spheres.

What keep us from intimacy – deep fellowship – unity – oneness? If we can answer that question we will be attacking the root of the problem.

## Numbers 15:38-39 – Why Tassels?

<sup>38</sup>"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. <sup>39</sup>You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes'"

Why Tassels?

- So they would remember His commands
- So they would not prostitute themselves

Referring to the oneness of the relationship he desires with us as the groom.

### Matthew 23:1-7 – Jesus & ‘Tassels’

<sup>1</sup>“Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: <sup>2</sup>“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. <sup>3</sup>So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. <sup>4</sup>They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup>“**Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; <sup>6</sup>they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; <sup>7</sup>they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.’”**

- Phylacteries – a box on their foreheads containing printed scripture. – Deut. 6:8
- They turned tassels into a “look at me” item verses an item to help them remember.
- One of the fundamental obstacles that keep us from intimacy – union – oneness: *Hunger for significance*

**Hunger for Significance:** A God-given, inherent drive within humans that desires recognition and relational significance. Dr. Tackett compares our significance drive to our sexual drive—holy and divine when fulfilled within God's design. We often distort this drive and attempt to find our significance in material possessions, our career, our spouse, etc.

### 1 Samuel 18: 6-10 – Hunger for Significance

<sup>6</sup>When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. <sup>7</sup> As they danced, they sang:

*"Saul has slain his thousands,  
and David his tens of thousands."*

<sup>8</sup> Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" <sup>9</sup> And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David. <sup>10</sup> The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul."

- Hunger for significance can destroy us.
- Saul felt he was losing significance.

### Matthew 6: 1-6

<sup>1</sup>“Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

- Do you want significance from man or from the Father?

### Matthew 6: 16-18

<sup>16</sup>“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

- Cf. 1 Peter 5:6-7 – “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

### Isaiah 55: 1-2 – Buyer’s Remorse

<sup>1</sup>“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.”

- Buyer’s Remorse – Purchasing items that do not satisfy
- Every commercial is trying to tell you that if you buy their product you will be significant

Revisiting the **simple** question... What is eternal life?

- “... that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” - John 17:3

What keeps us from intimacy?

- Prostituting ourselves
- Basically telling God you are not enough for me...I'll find satisfaction somewhere else.

Augustine – The True Perspective on Man's Need

"God has made us for Himself and our hearts are restless until we find our rest in Him."

Isaiah 53:5

<sup>15</sup> *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."*

Psalms 42: 1-2 – Our Greatest Desire

<sup>1</sup> *As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, O God.*

<sup>2</sup> *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

'Unio Mystica' – Am I Alone?

Have you bought the lie of the world...Significance apart from God?

## **Key Terms Lesson 8**

**Buyer's Remorse:** A strong feeling of guilt or regret when one has made a purchase of something that would deeply satisfy, but it does not.

**Hunger for Significance:** A God-given, inherent drive within humans that desires recognition and relational significance. Dr. Tackett compares our significance drive to our sexual drive—holy and divine when fulfilled within God's design. We often distort this drive and attempt to find our significance in material possessions, our career, our spouse, etc.

**Phylacteries:** Small boxes containing slips of paper with scripture written on them that were fastened on the foreheads of scribes (see Numbers 15:38, Deuteronomy 22:12)]. Jesus references phylacteries in Matthew 23:1-7.

**Prostitute:** Somebody who receives money in return for sexual acts or a person who sells their abilities, talent, or skills for an unworthy purpose. When we look to other means of fulfilling our drive for significance, God says we are "prostituting ourselves."

**Tassels:** God commanded the children of Israel to tie tassels on their robes in order help the remember the commands of the Lord. See Numbers 15:38-39.

**Unio Mystica:** The mystical union that exists between God and man. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God has invited us into an intimate, personal relationship with Him. In a larger sense, this mystery extends to the intimate union found within marriage and the church.