"Christ and His Bride" by Julia Higgins
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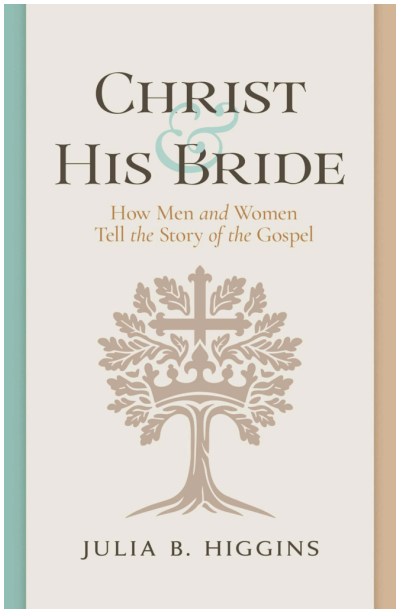
Author Julia Higgins Explores Humanity's Shared Purpose Beyond Cultural and Family Roles in 'Christ and His Bride'



BRENTWOOD, Tenn., May 22, 2026—In a culture where identity is often defined by achievement, relationships or social roles, many Christians have quietly assumed that titles like husband, wife, mother and father are central to God's design for humanity. But what if Scripture points to something even deeper?

In "Christ and His Bride" (B&H Publishing Group, July 2026), author and theologian Julia B. Higgins explores Genesis 1:26–28 to argue that men and women share a greater primary calling: bearing God's image and participating in His kingdom purposes on earth.

Higgins argues that men and women were created to represent God's rule on earth with humility, wisdom and service. While sin distorted humanity's original purpose, Higgins points readers to Christ as the fulfillment of humanity's failed vocation and the model for true servant-hearted leadership.

"Humankind, both man and woman, were made in the image and likeness of the all-powerful, all-creative, triune God of Genesis 1," Higgins writes. "And this is the beginning of the true story. That humans are created beings, made in the image of their loving Creator."

Rather than framing identity primarily around categories like husband or wife, father or mother, Higgins presents a broader theological vision centered on humanity's creation in God's image and Christ's redemptive kingdom.

"In this book, we will see how each man and woman's relationship through the Bible and in the church ultimately reflects Christ and His bride, the fulfillment of the regency mandate," Higgins said. "This book is not meant to define the gender roles of a man and woman in marriage or even in the church but instead to understand ultimately what the relationship between a man and woman represents. This book is for men, women, married or single, seeking to understand the tiny puzzle piece they are in the painting of the story of God."

To request an interview, please contact Jill Waggoner at jill.waggoner@lifeway.com or 615.330.6821.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Julia B. Higgins serves as associate professor of Christian ministry at Samford University. Her passion is equipping students to teach the Bible, make disciples and serve their local church. She co-edited and contributed to "The Whole Woman: Ministering to Her Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength" (B&H 2021), she authored "Christ and His Bride: How Men and Women Tell the Story of the Gospel" and "Empowered and Equipped: Bible Exposition for Women Who Teach the Scriptures" (B&H Academic 2022), and contributed to "Complementarianism: A Continuum of Perspectives on Men and Women in the Church" (B&H Academic 2026). She has spoken at various events for Lifeway Women and serves as a doctrinal reader for 'Missions Mosaic,' a publication of the WMU. She and her husband, Tony, reside in the Birmingham area with their loveable Shih-tzu, Charlie.

TALKING POINTS & INTERVIEW ANGLES

Are husband, wife, mother and father our primary identities? Why Genesis points to a deeper shared vocation for men and women

Recovering the creation mandate: What Genesis teaches about humanity's original purpose and why it still matters today

Christ as the true model of leadership: How Jesus redefines authority through humility, sacrifice and service

Men and women in God's kingdom: Why understanding shared purpose is essential for discipleship, flourishing and faithful ministry

Navigating modern conversations about gender and calling: How Christians can respond with both biblical conviction and grace

Why discipleship, not culture, should shape how Christians think about identity, vocation and leadership

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SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- What inspired you to write this book? What first led you to explore identity and purpose through the lens of Genesis 1?
- Why do you think so many Christians primarily define themselves through roles rather than the image of God?
- What is the “regency mandate,” and why is it important for believers today?
- How does Christ fulfill what humanity failed to accomplish in Genesis?
- What does servant-hearted leadership look like practically in today’s culture?
- How should Christians think differently about power, authority and influence?
- What are some common misconceptions Christians have about identity and purpose?
- How does your book speak into today’s conversations surrounding gender and calling?
- Why is it important for both men and women to understand their shared vocation in God’s kingdom?
- What do you hope readers ultimately learn from this book?

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