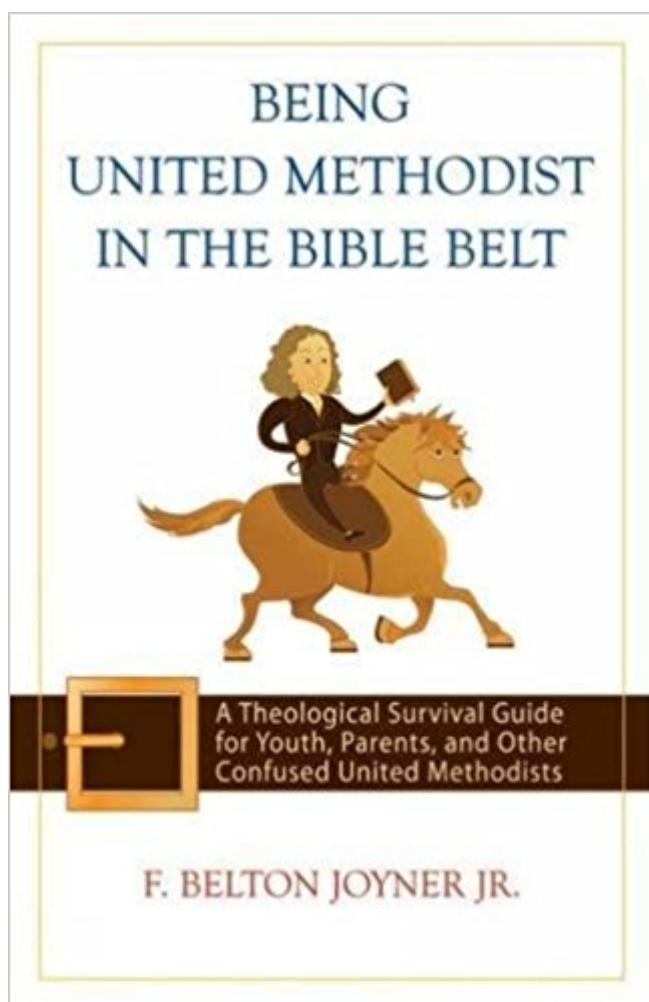


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# Being United Methodist In The Bible Belt: Theological Survival Gde For Youth, Parents, & Other Confused United Methodists



## **Synopsis**

Written in a humorous, accessible style, this book is an easy-to-understand guide to the kinds of theological questions that many United Methodist youth and others are asking today. Being United Methodist in the Bible Belt will help any United Methodist youth, parent, or educator better understand their unique brand of Christianity in light of the understandings of those from the evangelical tradition. With helpful sidebars explaining United Methodist history and polity and questions after each chapter for reflection and action, this book is ideal for Christian education courses for youth and adults, new member classes in United Methodist churches, as well as personal reading.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

There are people in congregations everywhere wondering and raising the questions and challenges addressed in this book. As John Wesley himself might have said, this is plain truth for plain people.

--Patricia Farris, Senior Minister, First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica, California

F. Belton Joyner Jr. is a retired United Methodist pastor who teaches courses in Methodist History and Wesleyan Theology at Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. He is the author of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers and Being United Methodist in the Bible Belt, both available from WJK.

Our pastor assigned this book to my husband and me before allowing us to join the congregation. I'm glad he did...now I KNOW who Methodists are, and I also know they have a great sense of humor! Joyner gives a great intro to Methodism and its history, whilst making you snicker like you did with that slapstick teacher in high school. Great read!!

How helpful to journey with Belton down the historic United Methodist path amidst the other Christian denominational understandings! He puts in perspective those "little differences" among the faith expressions that create the Protestant fabric, in particular, enabling United Methodists and those of other Christian expressions to identify as well as understand how they fit in. As a life-long Methodist/United Methodist, this book affirmed my path! And with the bonus of humor and a light and loving touch.

Having been raised in the Pentecostal faith and new to the Methodist church, I found this to be an excellent primer on the basic principles of what makes us Methodists and why we do some of the things we do, and also inspiring to look further into Wesleyan theology (along with some good pointers on where to look). If you're new to the UMC, this is a good introduction. And yes, it takes on some of the social issues that the Church is currently dealing with. If there are issues, the author notes that "maybe God wants us to keep working on this discussion..." All in all, a good and fairly inspiring introduction for new members as well as those looking to see just what this Methodism thing is all about. I'm glad I bought it (both Kindle & hardback), and it's definitely helped me on my path in seeking further light.

This is a good book for those who want an overview of the Methodist church, its history and its teachings. It is set up in a textbook format for use with youth groups but adults can learn from it as well. It's short enough to finish in a night or two and light and humorous enough for the subject matter to stick with you. It has real world examples making the subject more interesting.

Being a United Methodist for some 69 years I found this book very helpful. Living in the Bible Belt sometimes leave me with a lonely feeling since I am more progressive in religious thought than many of my neighbors. I do not take the Bible as they do, since I look behind the words to see what God was trying to tell me through the writer(s). This book gave me great hope and was also a really good summary of United Methodist beliefs. Recommend it to all United Methodist and any open minded person who is on a religious journey no matter what Church they belong to.

I have been a member of the UMC for more than 40 years, and I learned a lot from this book. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to realize the connectualism of our denomination as well as the things that make us unique.

This book is great for new Methodists as well as some of us "old" Methodists who have forgotten why we do things a certain way. Very readable and very informative!

The book ouches on the major points, and manages to be accessible to all ages and levels of experience in Methodism.

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