

Message Four

**Walking in Christ as the All-inclusive Spirit
for the Reality of the Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:12, 18; 2:6, 19; 3:15

I. To walk worthily of God's calling is to walk in Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit—Col. 2:6; Gal. 3:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b:

- A. Christ is the allotted portion of the saints for their enjoyment—Col. 1:12:
 - 1. To believe into Him is to receive Him—John 3:15-16; 1:12-13.
 - 2. As the all-inclusive Spirit, He enters into us and dwells in our spirit to be everything to us—2 Cor. 3:17; 2 Tim. 4:22.
- B. As we have received Christ, Jesus the Lord, we should walk in Him—Col. 2:6:
 - 1. To walk is to live, to act, to behave, and to have our whole being.
 - 2. We should walk, live, and act in Christ that we may enjoy His riches, just as the children of Israel lived in the good land, enjoying all its rich produce—Eph. 3:8; Deut. 8:6-10.
- C. The good land today is Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit, who dwells in our spirit to be our enjoyment—Gal. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:22:
 - 1. Christ as the good land is now in our regenerated spirit, which is mingled with the life-giving Spirit—John 3:6; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.
 - 2. The more we walk, live, move, behave, and have our being in the mingled spirit, the more we experience and enjoy Christ as the good land.
 - 3. To walk according to the mingled spirit is the central and crucial point in the New Testament—Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16.

II. We need to walk in Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit for the reality of the Body of Christ—Col. 1:18; 2:19; 3:15:

- A. We must hold Christ as the Head of the Body—1:18; 2:19:
 - 1. The place of all the members is to hold the Head and to acknowledge Him as the unique and supreme authority in all things—Matt. 28:18; Col. 2:19.
 - 2. For the Body to hold the Head means that the Body does not allow itself to be separated from the Head—v. 19.
 - 3. The members of the Body are fitted together only by holding the Head—Eph. 4:15-16.
 - 4. To live the Body life, first we must take the Head as the life, the principle object, and the center of our whole being—Col. 1:18; 3:4, 10-11.
 - 5. We need to coordinate with all the members to live a life that expresses the Head—Rom. 12:5.
- B. We need to experience Christ as the life of the Body—Col. 3:4, 10-11:
 - 1. For Christ to be our life means that He is subjective to us to the extent that He actually becomes us—John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.
 - 2. Christ as our life is a crucified life, a resurrected life, and a life hidden in God—Gal. 2:20; John 11:25; Col. 3:4; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18.

3. That Christ is our life is a strong indication that we are to take Him as life and live Him in our daily life—Col. 3:4a; Phil. 1:20-21a.
- C. As we hold Christ as the Head, the Body grows with the growth of God—Col. 2:19:
1. The growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the addition of God, the increase of God, within us—v. 19:
 - a. The more God is added into us, the more growth He gives to us; this is the way God gives the growth—1 Cor. 3:6-7.
 - b. Only God can give growth; only God can give us Himself, and without Him, we cannot have growth—vv. 6-7.
 2. When the Body is supplied by holding the Head, the Body grows with the growth of God—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.
- D. We need to care for the peace of the Body—Col. 3:15:
1. The peace that is Christ, the peace that was made by Christ, and the peace that has been announced by Christ as the gospel is the peace of the Body and the peace in the Body—Eph. 2:14-15, 17; 4:3-4; Col. 1:20.
 2. We were called to the peace of Christ in one Body; in and for the Body of Christ, we keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace—3:15; Eph. 4:3.
 3. No one who is independent of the Body ever has real peace; dependence on the Body brings genuine peace—Gal. 6:16.
 4. To live in the Body and to keep the oneness of the Body is to live in the peace of the Body—Eph. 6:23; Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14.