

## **THE VISION NEEDED FOR THE PRACTICAL EXISTENCE OF THE UNIVERSAL ONE NEW MAN**

Morning Sessions: Message Four

### **The Slaying of the Ordinances for the Creation of the One New Man**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:14-15; Col. 2:14

- I. On the cross Christ created the new man in Himself by abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, the middle wall of partition—Eph. 2:14-15a:**
- A. The law spoken of in 2:15 is not the law of the moral commandments, but the law of ritual commandments, such as the ordinances of circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, and eating certain foods.
  - B. Ordinances are the forms or ways of living and worship, which create enmity and division:
    - 1. On the cross Christ abolished all the regulations regarding living and worship, regulations that have divided the nations—v. 15; Col. 2:14.
    - 2. Christ's death was not only for our salvation, liberation, sanctification, and victory but also to abolish the ordinances in order to create the church as the one new man.
  - C. From the time of Babel, mankind has been divided by ordinances concerning the ways of living and worship; in God's economy in the church life, we must overcome Babel—Gen. 11:1-9:
    - 1. Due to man's fall there are many ordinances, many customs, habits, ways to live, and ways to worship.
    - 2. All these differences among peoples have divided, scattered, and confused mankind.
    - 3. One of the main elements of ordinances is language; our very language can become an ordinance:
      - a. On the day of Pentecost, the divisions caused by language were overcome, and the church as the one new man came into existence—Acts 2:1-11.
      - b. If we can overcome the difficulty presented by language, a great part of our problem with ordinances will be solved—6:1 and note 1.
      - c. When we stay for a long period of time in another country, or even live there, we should, if possible, learn the language of the people there and not insist on our native tongue.
    - 4. Christ should be our only source; we should not allow anything of our background, culture, or nationality to be our source—cf. Col. 3:10-11.
    - 5. The worldly people regard cultural differences as a mark of prestige, but in Christ we have lost this prestige:
      - a. For the church to be the new man means that the church is a new mankind, a new humanity, a new human race.
      - b. Now our only prestige is Christ and the genuine oneness.

- c. If we are willing to let go of our cultural pride, it will be possible for the Lord to have the proper church life.

**II. The more we are in the mingled spirit, in the mingling of the divine Spirit with the human spirit, the more we shall be set free from ordinances—Eph. 2:18, 22:**

- A. The cross abolished the ordinances in order to give place to the Spirit, in whom we have access unto the Father—v. 18:
  1. If we have ordinances, we do not have the Spirit, but if we have the Spirit, we shall not have ordinances:
    - a. The church life does not consist of ordinances, but of the living Spirit.
    - b. The church is the reprint of the Spirit—Zech. 4:2-6.
    - c. “No Spirit, no church. More Spirit, more church”—1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4.
    - d. As long as we are not in the Spirit, anything we do is an ordinance—cf. 2 Cor. 3:6.
- B. “For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters”—Gal. 6:15:
  1. The only thing that matters is the new man as the new creation, the masterpiece of life with the divine nature—v. 15; Eph. 2:10.
  2. To be a new creation is to have Christ wrought into our being—3:16-17.
  3. When Christ is realized through the Spirit in our spirit, we become the new creation, the new man—Gal. 6:18; Eph. 4:23-24.