

## **KNOWING THE BODY—THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BODY**

First Morning Session—Message One

### **The Vision of the Oneness of the Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:1-6; John 17:21-22; Acts 1:14; Rom. 16:7

#### **I. We need to see the uniqueness of the Body of Christ:**

- A. There is one Body in the universe—Eph. 4:4a; 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 5:23-25; 2:15; Col. 3:11; 1 Cor. 12:12.
- B. The oneness of this Body is kept and expressed by each local church in its locality—Acts 8:1a; 13:1a; Rev. 1:11.

#### **II. We need to see the base of the oneness of the church:**

- A. The base of this oneness is the seven factors of our Christian faith—Eph. 4:4-6, 13:
  - 1. The first factor is the one Body for the corporate expression of Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God.
  - 2. The second factor is the one Spirit as the essence of the Body of Christ.
  - 3. The third factor is the one hope of glory for the redemption of our body.
  - 4. The fourth factor is the one Lord as the element of the Body of Christ.
  - 5. The fifth factor is the one faith, uniting us to Christ.
  - 6. The sixth factor is the one baptism, separating us from Adam and the Adamic world.
  - 7. The seventh factor is the one God and Father, overshadowing us, taking care of us, and being with us.
- B. The base of this oneness is the oneness of the Spirit—4:3.
- C. The base of this oneness is the oneness of the Divine Trinity—John 17:21-22.
- D. The base of this oneness is the oneness for which the Lord prayed:
  - 1. This oneness is in the Father's name by the eternal life—vv. 6-13.
  - 2. This oneness is in the Triune God through sanctification by the holy word—vv. 14-21.
  - 3. This oneness is in the divine glory for the expression of the Triune God—vv. 22-24.

#### **III. The practice of the oneness is the one accord—Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 15:25; Rom. 15:6.**

#### **IV. The apostle exhorted us to keep the oneness of the Spirit—Eph. 4:1-3.**

#### **V. Division is heretical, sectarian—Gal. 5:20b-21a:**

- A. It dismembers the Body of Christ and is repulsive in the eyes of the apostles—1 Cor. 1:10-13a; 3:3-4; 11:17-20.
- B. The apostles were strong in condemning the heresies, denying the person of Christ in His divinity or in His humanity—1 John 2:22; 4:2-4; 2 John 7, 9-11; 2 Pet. 2:1.

#### **VI. The apostle charged us to deal with the divisive, sectarian ones—Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10.**