

KNOWING THE BODY—THE WORK OF THE BODY

Evening Session—Message One

The One Work in the Lord's Recovery

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1a; 1 Cor. 15:10; Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 4:12, 16

- I. In doing the work which the Father gave Him to do, the Lord Jesus was one with the Father; He did not do anything from Himself, He did not seek His own will, and He did not seek His own glory—John 10:30; 5:19, 30b; 7:18.**
- II. As God's fellow workers, working together with Him (5:17; 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1), we need to realize that:**
 - A. The initiation of God's work must be out of God and not out of us—Rom. 11:36.
 - B. The advance of God's work must be by God's power and not by our power—Acts 1:8.
 - C. The result of God's work must be for God's glory and not for our glory—Eph. 3:21.
- III. We need to see that our self, our purpose, and our ambition are three destroying "worms" in our work—Matt. 16:24; John 5:19, 30b; 7:18:**
 - A. If we would be used always by the Lord in His recovery, our self must be denied, our purpose must be rejected, and our ambition must be given up.
 - B. We should know only to labor for the Lord by denying our self, rejecting our purpose, and giving up our ambition—1 Cor. 15:10.
- IV. In the Lord's recovery there is only one work—the work of the one Body; we should not have the thought that we can do a particular work according to our way—Eph. 4:12:**
 - A. The work of the Lord's recovery is the work of His economy, the work of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10:
 1. We all must see the Body and do the work of the Body—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 4:4, 15-16.
 2. The vision of the Body must become our governing vision, and we must do the work of the Lord's recovery under this vision—Prov. 29:18a.
 3. "Whenever God's children see the oneness of the Body, they will also see the oneness of the work, and they will be delivered out of individualistic work into the work of the Body" (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 37, p. 244).
 - B. All the co-workers should do the same one work universally for the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 24-27; Eph. 4:12:
 1. What we are doing today is not our personal work but the economy of God throughout the generations, that is, the building up of the Body of Christ—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:9; 4:12.
 2. Whatever we do in our locality or universally for other countries should be done with the realization that we are building up the Body of Christ—v. 16.