

## KNOWING THE BODY—THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BODY

First Morning Session—Message Two

### The Consciousness of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 12:12-27

**I. For the Lord's move in His recovery both locally and universally, we all need to be Body-conscious in one accord—Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 15:25; Rom. 15:6:**

- A. We should always consider the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, and do what is best for the Body—1 Cor. 12:12-27.
- B. “When Brother Nee taught about the Body he said that with whatever we do, we have to consider how the churches would feel about it” (*The Problems Causing the Turmoils in the Church Life*, p. 29).

**II. In the Body there can be no independence or individualism, for we are members, and members cannot live in detachment from the Body—v. 27; Rom. 12:5; Eph. 5:30:**

- A. Those who see that they are members of the Body treasure the Body and honor the other members, each of whom is indispensable—1 Cor. 12:15, 21, 23-24; Rom. 12:3; Phil. 2:29; 1 Cor. 16:18; Judg. 9:9:
  - 1. Since we are members of the Body of Christ, we should have a feeling for the Body, taking the feeling of the Head as our own feeling—Phil. 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:25b-26.
  - 2. We need to be like-souled in the Body life, genuinely caring for the things of Christ Jesus, the things concerning the church with all the saints—Phil. 2:2, 20-21; 1:8.
- B. Wherever there is Body-revelation, there is Body-consciousness, and wherever there is Body-consciousness, individualistic thought and action are ruled out:
  - 1. If we want to know the Body, we need deliverance not only from our sinful life and our natural life but also from our individualistic life.
  - 2. Just as the Father is versus the world, the Spirit is versus the flesh, and the Lord is versus the devil, so also the Body is versus the individual.
  - 3. Just as we cannot be independent from the Head, we cannot be independent from the Body.
  - 4. Individualism is hateful in the sight of God:
    - a. The enemy of the Body is the self, the independent “I,” the independent “me”; if we would be built up in the Body, the self must be condemned, denied, rejected, and renounced—Matt. 16:21-26.
    - b. We should be dependent not only on God, but also on the Body, on the brothers and sisters—Exo. 17:11-13; Acts 9:25; 2 Cor. 11:33.
  - 5. What I do not know, another member of the Body will know; what I cannot see, another member of the Body will see; what I cannot do, another member of the Body will do—1 Cor. 12:17-22.
  - 6. If we refuse the help of our fellow-members, we are refusing the help of Christ; sooner or later all individualistic Christians will dry up—v. 12.