

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Message Four

(Friday—First Morning Session)

The Unique Fellowship in the Lord's Unique Recovery

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:16; Phil. 2:1; 1 John 1:3, 7

- I. We need to keep the unique fellowship in the Lord's unique recovery—Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3:**
 - A. The Lord's recovery is unique; there is not another recovery, just as there is not another Body of Christ or another New Testament.
 - B. The fellowship of the apostles, which is the fellowship of the Body of Christ, is the fellowship for this unique recovery of the Lord—Acts 2:42.
- II. Just as there is the circulation of blood in the human body, so there is a circulation in the Body of Christ—a circulation which the New Testament calls fellowship—1 John 1:3, 7:**
 - A. Fellowship is a common participation, a joint participation; thus, to have fellowship is to have a corporate participation in something—Phil. 4:14; 2:1.
 - B. Because the divine life is organic, rich, moving, and active, it has an issue, a certain kind of outcome; the issue, the outcome, of the divine life is the fellowship of life—1 John 1:1-3.
 - C. In order to have the unique fellowship, we must live by and behave in the divine life, not in our natural life—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.
 - D. If we would live thoroughly in the divine fellowship, we need to experience the cross—Matt. 16:24.
- III. Fellowship is related to oneness—1 Cor. 1:9; 6:17; 10:16-17; 12:20:**
 - A. The fellowship, the circulation, of the divine life in the Body brings all the members of the Body into oneness—Eph. 4:3-6.
 - B. This oneness is called the oneness of the Spirit (v. 3); it is also the oneness of the Body—v. 4; 1 Cor. 12:12-13.
 - C. As long as we have the divine life flowing within us, we are in this oneness—the oneness of the Body, the oneness among all the saints.
 - D. The unique fellowship is the genuine oneness of the Body of Christ as the unique ground for the believers to be kept one in Christ—Eph. 4:3-6.
- IV. The fellowship among the churches is the fellowship of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 10:16:**
 - A. The Lord's recovery is based upon the truth that Christ has only one Body, which is expressed in many localities as the local churches—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; Rev. 1:11.
 - B. Because there is one Spirit, there is only one Body, and there is only one circulation of life in the Body; this circulation is the fellowship of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:4; 1 John 1:3, 7.
 - C. The fellowship of the Body of Christ is the circulation, the current of *the* Spirit; when *the* Spirit is circulating within the Body of Christ, divinity, humanity, Christ's person, Christ's death, and Christ's resurrection all are circulating.

- D. A local church is a part of the unique Body of Christ, and the fellowship of the Body is universally one; in fellowship there is no separation—Rev. 1:11; 2:7a:
 - 1. No church or region should isolate itself from the fellowship of the Body.
 - 2. The result of a church or a region isolating itself from the fellowship of the Body of Christ is darkness, confusion, division, and death.
- E. Whenever we come to the Lord's table, we come to practice the fellowship of the Body—1 Cor. 10:16-17:
 - 1. The Lord's table is a testimony that we who belong to Christ are one:
 - a. We are one bread, one Body, because we all partake of one bread—v. 17.
 - b. Our partaking of Christ constitutes us into His one Body.
 - 2. If we isolate ourselves from the fellowship of the Body, we are not qualified to partake of the Lord's body, because the loaf on the table in the Lord's supper signifies the entire Body of Christ.
- F. Among all the churches that compose the one universal Body of Christ, there is no organization, but there is the fellowship of the Body of Christ—Phil. 1:5.
- G. The divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 1:9; 12:12-13, 27.

V. The fellowship of the Body of Christ, which is the fellowship among the churches, is the fellowship of the apostles—Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3:

- A. In the church life in the Lord's recovery, we follow and practice the fellowship of the apostles, which is based upon the teaching of the apostles—Acts 2:42:
 - 1. Teaching creates fellowship, and fellowship comes from teaching—1 Cor. 4:17; 1:9; 10:16.
 - 2. The teaching is the element and the realm of fellowship; the unique fellowship is produced by the unique teaching, the apostles' teaching.
 - 3. If we teach wrongly or differently from the apostles' teaching, our teaching will produce a sectarian, divisive fellowship—1 Tim. 1:3-4; 6:3.
 - 4. In the Lord's recovery today, we are under the apostles' teaching and in the apostles' fellowship—Acts 2:42.
 - 5. In our work for the Lord, we must keep ourselves in the apostles' fellowship—1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10; Eph. 4:12.
- B. The circulation of the divine life among the believers through the apostles and from the Father is the fellowship of the Body, which comprises all the local churches—2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 1:3, 7.
- C. In the fellowship of the divine life, we join with the apostles and the Triune God for the carrying out of God's purpose—v. 3:
 - 1. John's word concerning fellowship in 1 John 1:3 indicates a putting away of private interests and a joining with others for a certain common purpose.
 - 2. To have fellowship with the apostles, to be in the fellowship of the apostles, and to have fellowship with the Triune God in the apostles' fellowship is to put aside our private interests and join with the apostles and the Triune God for the carrying out of God's purpose.
- D. We need to see and have the boldness to say that we are in the unique fellowship of the Lord's recovery, which is the recovered apostles' fellowship.