

**THE ONE NEW MAN
FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATING MAN**

(Saturday—First Morning Session)

Message Seven

**Being Renewed in the Spirit of Our Mind
for the Practical Existence of the One New Man**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; 3:16-17a;
1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:10-11

- I. In Colossians 3:10 there are the creation of the new man and the renewal of the new man; the creation of the new man was completed on the cross, but the renewal of the new man is still going on.**
- II. The new man was created by Christ, but the believers need to partake of this creation—Eph. 2:15; Col. 3:10:**
 - A. To bring forth the new man, first Christ's creating work on the cross was needed, and this has been accomplished—Eph. 2:15.
 - B. In order to partake of this creation, every day we need to put off the old man and put on the new man through the renewing—4:22-24; Col. 3:10.
- III. To be renewed is to have God's element added into our being to replace and discharge our old element—Rev. 21:5a; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:16:**
 - A. Newness is God; therefore, to become new is to become God—Rom. 6:4; 7:6:
 1. God is forever new, and He infuses His ever-new essence into our being to renew our entire being—12:2; Col. 3:10.
 2. The Spirit of God renews us by infusing our inward parts with God's attributes, which are forever new, can never become old, and are everlasting and unchanging—Rev. 21:5a.
 - B. The renewing Spirit imparts the divine essence of the new man into our being to make us a new creation—Titus 3:5.
 - C. God arranges our environment so that little by little and day by day our outer man will be consumed and our inner man will be renewed—2 Cor. 4:16.
 - D. We are renewed by the renewing capacity of the divine life in resurrection—John 11:25; 2 Cor. 1:9; 4:14; Phil. 3:10.
- IV. According to Ephesians 4:23, which is vital and crucial to us, the key to putting off the old man (the old social life) and putting on the new man (the new church life) is in being renewed in the spirit of our mind:**
 - A. A regenerated spirit is a renewed spirit; this renewed spirit must be strengthened (Eph. 3:16) to invade, subdue, and occupy every part of our soul (v. 17a).
 - B. Christ as the life-giving Spirit is now in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22; 1 Cor. 6:17), and these two spirits mingle together to form the spirit of the mind:
 1. Our mind is being renewed through the realization that Christ as the life-giving Spirit is mingled with our regenerated human spirit.

2. When the life-giving Spirit, who dwells in and is mingled with our regenerated spirit, spreads into our mind, this mingled spirit becomes the spirit of our mind; it is by this mingled spirit that our mind is renewed.
- C. To be renewed in the spirit of our mind is inward and intrinsic—Rom. 12:2:
 1. The renewing in the spirit of our mind revolutionizes our logic, philosophy, thought, concept, and psychology.
 2. Renewing is to have our mind changed in our religion, logic, and philosophy concerning the universe, mankind, God, etc., by the Spirit of truth with the revelations in the Scriptures, even to have Christ's mind replacing our mind through the consuming work of the cross—Titus 3:5; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Rom. 8:6; Phil. 2:5; 2 Cor. 4:16.
 - D. The only possibility of God's purpose being fulfilled in this age is that we would all be willing to be renewed in the spirit of our mind.
- V. The renewing Spirit is mingled with our regenerated spirit as one mingled spirit to spread into our mind in order to renew our entire being as a member of the new man by putting off the old man and putting on the new man—Eph. 4:22, 24:**
- A. To put off the old man is to deny and renounce our old self—v. 22; Matt. 16:24.
 - B. To put on the new man is to apply what Christ has accomplished in creating the new man—Eph. 2:15; 4:24.
 - C. Whereas the cross is for the putting off of our old man, the Spirit is for the putting on of the new man:
 1. In order to put off the old man, we must apply the cross to ourselves—Matt. 16:24.
 2. To put on the new man is to live and magnify Christ through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—Phil. 1:19-21a.
- VI. The renewal of the mind is for the full existence and real practice of the one new man—Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10-11:**
- A. Our mind needs to be renewed not only for our spiritual conduct or for our personal, ethical behavior but also for the existence of the one new man.
 - B. The focal point of our being renewed in the spirit of our mind is the one new man—Eph. 4:23-24.
 - C. Throughout our life, our national and racial mentality has been built up, and for the existence of the one new man, this mentality must be renewed—Col. 3:10-11:
 1. Our natural and national mentality was educated and built up according to our racial and cultural background; this is the greatest hindrance to the existence of the new man.
 2. In order for the one new man to come into full existence, we must experience a thorough renewal of our mind, which has been built up according to our nationality and culture—vv. 10-11.
 - D. The only way that the one new man can be realized practically is by our mind being renewed—Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23-24; Col. 3:10-11:
 1. We need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind actually and daily in our living; otherwise, there is no way for the Lord to have the new man.

2. The one new man cannot be realized by our being corrected or taught but by the Spirit of God permeating our mentality.
3. In our prayer we need to have a desire to enter into the practicality of the one new man, and thus we need to ask the Lord to renew our mind and transform our inward being—Rom. 12:2.
4. Daily we need to put off the old man and put on the new man; for this we need to drink of the one Spirit that we may be renewed in the spirit of our mind in every area of our practical, daily life—Eph. 4:22-32.
5. When we drink of the Spirit, He saturates every part of our being—1 Cor. 12:13:
 - a. As we drink of the Spirit, the first part of our soul that He saturates is our mind.
 - b. If we drink of the Spirit, we will be renewed in the spirit of our mind, and this renewing will make us all into one new man—Eph. 4:23-24.
6. When our mind has been renewed, the one new man will come into existence in a practical way, and Christ will truly be all and in all—Col. 3:10-11.

Excerpts from the Ministry:

**PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN
BY BEING RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR MIND**

Ephesians 2:15 tells us that the new man was created on the cross, yet Ephesians 4:22 tells us that we have to put off the old man. Because the new man in Ephesians is corporate, the old man, in the same principle, must also be a corporate man. We need to put off the old man not by being taught, corrected, trained, educated, or instructed but by being renewed in the spirit of our mind (v. 23). When we are being renewed in the spirit of our mind, we not only put off the old man but also put on the new man, “which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality” (v. 24). The one new man was created in Christ, but on you nothing of the new man may exist. Thus, we have to put on, to wear, the new man, which has already been created in Christ. The way we put on the new man is by being renewed in the spirit of our mind.

Man is a tripartite being, composed of spirit and soul and body (1 Thes. 5:23). The soul is composed of the mind (Psa. 13:2; 139:14; Lam. 3:20), the emotion (1 Sam. 18:1; 2 Sam. 5:8; Psa. 86:4), and the will (Job 7:15; 6:7; 1 Chron. 22:19). When we were regenerated, the Spirit of God came into our spirit. Romans 8:16 tells us that the Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God. This verse strongly testifies that the regenerating Spirit indwells our spirit. The divine Spirit dwells in our human spirit, and now “he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit” (1 Cor. 6:17). This indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit. The more that we pray, fellowship with the Lord, call on His dear name, and open our entire being to Him, the more such a mingled spirit spreads into our mind, thus becoming the spirit of our mind. It is in such a spirit that we are renewed for our transformation.

**BEING FILLED IN SPIRIT BY DRINKING THE SPIRIT
FOR THE RENEWING OF THE MIND**

Ephesians 5:18 tells us to be filled in spirit. To be drunk with wine is to be filled in the body, whereas to be filled in the spirit (our regenerated spirit, not God’s Spirit) is to be filled with Christ (1:23) unto the fullness of God (3:19). The Lord wants to spread from our spirit first into our mind and then into our emotion and will. Our regenerated spirit mingled with

the indwelling Spirit of God spreads into our mind. It is in this mingled spirit of our mind that we are renewed. To drink of the Spirit is to open ourselves to the Lord by praying to Him, calling upon His name, and fellowshiping with Him. The Spirit of God today is the drinking water. The more we drink of the Spirit, the more He fills us with Himself, and the more He saturates our mind to renew it for transformation.

THE RENEWING OF THE MIND FOR THE ONE NEW MAN

When I was a young believer, I thought that the renewing in the spirit of our mind was just for our Christian behavior. We can get our mind renewed by allowing it to be filled, possessed, and taken over by the Spirit of God. We have to pray, to fellowship with the Lord, to call on His name, and even to make a thorough confession of our sins. Then we will be transformed, and our behavior will be changed. Although this is true, the focal point of being renewed in the spirit of our mind is for the one new man.

Colossians 3:10-11 tells us that we need to “put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.” In the new man Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, and free man have no place. The renewal is not merely for our behavior. The renewal is even more to get rid of our racial ordinances and to get rid of the natural persons. Not only is there no natural person in the new man, but there is no possibility, no room, for any natural person. In the new man there is room only for Christ. The new man is not Chinese, Japanese, French, English, German, or American. The new man is Christ. Christ is all and in all in the new man. In the new man there cannot be any Jew or Greek. There cannot be any Chinese or any Japanese. In the new man there cannot be any white or any black. We all need to be renewed for the existence of the one new man.

In Colossians 3:10 are the creation of the new man and his renewal. The creation was completed on the cross, but the renewal needs to go on. We need to have our mind renewed for the existence of the new man. God has created the new man, but the new man has not fully come into existence because of our unrenewed mind. Our mind is the problem. By God’s sovereignty I have been in many countries and have seen many different ordinances, many different ways of living. For people from different races and cultures to get saved is much easier than being renewed concerning their way of living. The ordinances in Japan are absolutely different from the ordinances in the United States. Everywhere I traveled I had to adjust to the particular ordinances of the people I visited. These different ordinances usually create a problem for us because our mind needs more renewing.

We all have to realize that God created one corporate man. God needed that man to fulfill His heart’s desire, but man fell and became divided and scattered. By being divided and scattered, man became useless in the hands of God. Look at today’s situation. The whole world is a divided and scattered world. In nearly every session of the United Nations, there is debating and even fighting. The real situation of the world is that the nations of this earth are not united but divided. In every level of society there is division. Today on this earth division is everywhere.

Romans 12:2 exhorts us not to be conformed to this age. This does not only mean that we should not be worldly in our dress and our way of living. To not be conformed to this age means even more that we should not follow the way of divisions. Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 4:23 are concerning the matter of renewing, and both verses are for the Body life. Romans 12:2 says, “Be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is.” If you look into the context of Romans 12, you can see that the will of God

is to have the Body. The renewing of the mind is for the Body life. The problems in the Body life are related to the different ordinances.

Paul was all-inclusive when he listed the types of natural persons for which there is no room in the new man. The Greeks are for philosophical wisdom; the Jews, for miraculous signs (1 Cor. 1:22). Circumcision refers to the observers of the Jewish religious rituals; uncircumcision to those who do not care for the Jewish religion. A barbarian is an uncultured person. Scythians were considered the most barbarous. A slave was one who had been sold into slavery, and a free man was one who was free from slavery. Christians today have been divided by race, by nationality, by language, and also by religious matters. Some Christians are for baptism by immersion, whereas others are for sprinkling. This is no different than being for circumcision or uncircumcision. Religious matters can divide Christians. Others have divided over the way a Christian meeting should be held. Religious opinions always divide the members of the Body.

We need to be renewed in our natural mind, which means that our mind needs to be filled up and saturated with the Spirit. The Spirit needs to permeate every fiber of our mentality. According to our natural concept, the worship of God should be very quiet and solemn. Even the Muslims and the Hindus will agree with this concept. But when the Lord was entering into Jerusalem, "all the multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the works of power which they had seen, saying, Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:37-38). When some of the Pharisees heard the disciples praising the Lord with a loud voice in such a way, they asked the Lord to rebuke them (v. 39). The Lord responded to them, "I tell you, If these shall be silent, the stones will cry out" (v. 40). The worship from the disciples in this particular passage was not something quiet and solemn but loud and rejoicing.

One day Brother Watchman Nee and I went to a Pentecostal meeting where the people were jumping, rolling, laughing, crying, and shouting. This meeting was too wild. All Brother Nee said to me concerning the meeting was that in the New Testament we are not told the way to meet. Brother Nee was not for such a wild meeting, but he was even the more against the deadness evidenced in many other Christian meetings.

We must see that in the new man there is no place for religious ordinances. When we began to meet in the early sixties in Los Angeles to have the church life, some people complained to me that in our meetings we did not have the gifts. I told them that our meetings were full of the gifts. First Corinthians 12 tells us that the top gift to the church is the word of wisdom and the second is the word of knowledge (v. 8). Another dear brother who loved the Lord very much came to me and said that he appreciated our meetings. His only problem was that he could not tolerate the sisters speaking in the meetings. He highly appraised me for my knowledge of the Bible, but he said I was mistaken in allowing the sisters to speak in the meetings. I asked him whether or not the sisters sang hymns in the meetings that he attended. When he responded that they did, I told him that even in his meetings the sisters were not silent because they sang the hymns. According to the truth of the Scriptures, women can pray and prophesy in the meetings (11:5), but they are not permitted to teach as an authority, defining doctrine (1 Tim. 2:12).

These examples will help to show us that religious matters can divide Christians. One particular group was even divided over whether to have a piano or an organ in their meetings. Eventually, one group was a piano assembly, and the other group was an organ assembly. All these are in the same category as circumcision and uncircumcision, religious or nonreligious. I am not for a piano assembly or for an organ assembly. I am for the new man.

We need to be renewed in our mind not just for our personal, ethical behavior but for the

one new man. Many Christians today still hold on to their natural, religious, and individual concepts because they will not let the Spirit spread into their mind. They do not let the Spirit take over their mind. We all need to open ourselves up to the Lord and pray, "Lord, I am here. I want my mind to be fully opened to You. Come in and fill me up. Permeate, saturate, and possess my entire inward being." I believe that if we would pray to the Lord in such a way, the Spirit would have a way to permeate our mind. When the Spirit permeates our mind, the ordinances are over. When the Spirit has possessed and saturated our mind, we will not care for black, white, Chinese, Japanese, American, British, German, French, Italian, or Spanish. We will not care whether the meeting is noisy or quiet. We will only care for the one new man.

By the Lord's sovereignty, due to this modern scientific age and the political situation, the globe has been made small. Many different peoples have been brought together. This is the Lord's doing. Despite the Lord's bringing so many cultures and races together, there is still so much division in religion. In the United States it is possible to see a Chinese Presbyterian Church and a Korean Presbyterian Church. It is also possible to see the Anglican Church in the United States. We must realize, however, that the church is the new man. Even though in this modern era so many races and peoples have been brought together, people still like to keep themselves divided. To keep ourselves divided from other Christians because of religious ordinances is to be conformed to this age because this age is one of division. To cause division is to be conformed to this age. We need to interpret Romans 12:2 in the way of not being conformed to this age of division. We Christians are one. Whether we are American, British, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, or Japanese, the Lord has made us one. No natural person has any place in the one new man.

The only way the one new man can be realized practically is by our mind being renewed. The one new man cannot be realized by our being corrected or taught but by the Spirit of God permeating our mentality. When the element of God gets into our mentality, we will think as He thinks, we will see things the way He does, and we will consider the situation as He does. It is then that the one new man will come into existence. There will be no races, no social ranks, and no religious differences. Christ will truly be all and in all. I believe that this is the up-to-date vision of the Lord's move on this earth. The Lord is moving on to get the one new man.

THE LORD'S MOVE TO USHER IN THE PRACTICAL EXISTENCE OF THE NEW MAN

The Lord prophesied in Matthew 16:18 that He would build His church. Whatever the Lord has prophesied must be fulfilled. Without the practical existence of the new man, the building up of the church may be vain talk. The building of the church depends upon the existence of the new man. If the new man comes into existence, no doubt, the builded church is here. Regardless of the present situation of division, the Lord is going to get the new man. Everything that the Lord is doing in this present age is to usher in the practical existence of the one new man. To drop our natural, religious concepts, our mind needs to be saturated, permeated, possessed, and taken over by our mingled spirit. Then our concepts will be fully revolutionized, and we will no longer have any ordinances. The new man will then come into existence. This is the Lord's move on the earth today. (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee*, 1977, vol. 3, "The One New Man," pp. 515-520)