

THE EXPERIENCE NEEDED FOR THE REALITY AND PRACTICALITY OF THE UNIVERSAL ONE NEW MAN

Second Morning Session—Message One

Taking Christ as Our Person for the One New Man

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; 3:17a; Col. 1:27; 3:4, 10-11; Gal. 2:20

I. For the new man we all need to take Christ as our person—Eph. 2:15; 3:17a:

- A. In the one new man, there is only one person—Christ—v. 17a; 4:24.
- B. We need to see that the church is the one new man and that in this new man we have no place, for Christ is all—Col. 3:10-11.
- C. Christ is in all of us as one person; therefore, we all have only one person—Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17a.
- D. In the new man all of us are simply one man; the requirement that everyone be only one man is extremely high—Col. 3:10-11.
- E. The new man is not about members (Rom. 12:4-5) but about the person; therefore, we all need to ask, “Who is my person—I or the Lord Jesus?”
- F. Christ is in all of us, so we all have only one person—Col. 1:27; Eph. 3:17a.
- G. What God cares for is whether we live by Christ and take Christ as our person—John 6:57b; Phil 1:21a; Col. 3:4; Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. We should not only eat Christ’s riches in order to take them in and assimilate them into our being; we should also allow Christ to be our person—vv. 8, 17a.
 - 2. We should take Christ not only to be our life but also to be our person.
 - 3. What is first is not taking Christ as our life but taking Christ as our person; if we take Christ as our person, we will surely take Him as our life—1 John 5:11-12; Col. 3:4.

II. For the practical existence of the one new man, the total person of the old man must be put away, and we must live by our new person—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:22, 24; 3:17a:

- A. Realizing that our former person has been crucified, we should no longer live in that person, by that person, and with that person—Rom. 6:6.
- B. We must deny our former person—“the old man” and “the outer man”—and live by our new person—“the inner man”—Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9; 2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 3:16.
- C. Our standard for being a Christian should not be right or wrong, good or bad, but a person; the crucial matter is not *what* we are doing but *who* is doing it.
- D. We should not care for the adjustment of our outward behavior but for the inward shifting from the old person to the new person—Gal. 2:20.

III. When we live our life by taking Christ as our person, especially in making decisions, our living will be the living of the new man—John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 17:4; Rom. 15:32; James 4:13-15:

- A. Whereas the Body is for moving, the new man is for living, and eighty to ninety percent of our living is in making decisions—Phil. 1:21-26.
- B. In the new man we take Christ as our person to make plans and to decide how we should live—Rom. 15:32.
- C. We need to live a life in the new man by taking Christ as our person, with Him as the One making all the decisions in us.
- D. If we take Christ as our person, we will not decide anything in our life by ourselves—Philem. 14:
 - 1. Once we see that we are a part of the one new man, we will not be able to decide things merely by ourselves.
 - 2. Since we are part of the new man, our decisions and our living should not be ours; they should be the decisions and living of the corporate new man; this is the ultimate requirement.
 - 3. The living of the new man is a corporate living; therefore, our decisions are corporate decisions and not our personal decisions—1 Cor. 4:19.
 - 4. We need to see that we are a corporate Body and a corporate new man and that both our living and our moving are corporate—12:12; Rom. 12:4-5.

IV. If we are unveiled and enlightened, we will see that today in the Lord's recovery we need to rise up together to take Christ as our person for the one new man—Eph. 3:17a; 4:24, 11-13:

- A. The gifted persons—the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers—should take this as their goal—v. 11; 3:17a.
- B. We need to perfect the saints in every locality that they may enter into a situation where they take Christ as their person for the one new man—4:11-13.
- C. If all the saints in the Lord's recovery take Christ as their person, then spontaneously we all will be the one new man—3:17a; 4:24.
- D. “Ultimately the Bible speaks of the church as the one new man....In the new man, there is nothing but the person. This level is so high that it cannot be higher, so strict it cannot be stricter, and so intimate it cannot be more intimate. All are one new man; this one new man has only one person, and this person is the Lord Jesus” (*One Body, One Spirit, and One New Man*, pp. 82-83).