

KNOWING THE BODY—THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BODY

Morning Session—Message Two

The Constitution of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:4-6

- I. **“We all must see the Body and do the work of the Body. All our problems, whether in the church or in our personal life, are due to our lack of seeing the Body”** (*The Governing and Controlling Vision in the Bible*, p. 33).
- II. **God has laws not only on the physical side but also on the spiritual side—Rom. 8:2:**
 - A. The spiritual laws are stricter than the physical laws—Num. 18.
 - B. When we touch the spiritual work of God, we must be restricted by His laws.
- III. **The issue of God becoming man and man becoming God is an organism—the Body of Christ, the union and mingling of God with man—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; 12:4-5:**
 - A. It is only by God’s becoming man to make man God that the Body of Christ can be produced; this point is the high peak of the divine revelation given to us by God.
 - B. God is making us, His children, the same as He is in life and in nature that He might produce a Body for Christ—8:16; 12:4-5.
 - C. Through regeneration, sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification, we become God for the producing of the Body of Christ—v. 2; 8:29-30.
 - D. *God* is our family name; our last name is *God*.
- IV. **The Body is the intrinsic significance of the church—Eph. 1:22-23:**
 - A. If there were no Body, the church would have no meaning; without the Body, the church makes no sense, but with the Body, there is the intrinsic significance of the church—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12, 27; Rev. 2:1, 5.
 - B. The church of God is the frame, and the Body of Christ is the organism.
 - C. The local churches are a procedure to bring us into the Body of Christ.
 - D. The local churches, which are mainly physical, should be for something spiritual—the Body of Christ, the organism of the unseen God.
 - E. “The Body of Christ is the source of the local churches. Such a universal Body is like the father to all the churches, and all the churches are like the children to the father” (*The Problems Causing the Turmoils in the Church Life*, p. 33).
- V. **We need to receive a trance so that we may see the intrinsic view of the Body of Christ in Ephesians 4—Acts 10:9-10; 11:5; 22:17:**
 - A. We need the Lord to give us a trance that transfers us from the visible circumstances to the invisible scene.
 - B. We must have a trance and be transferred into another sphere in order to see what the Body of Christ is intrinsically.

VI. Ephesians 4:4-6 is the crystallized speaking of the apostle Paul concerning the Body of Christ:

- A. The Triune God and we, the redeemed, are mingled into a constitution, and this constitution is the Body of Christ.
- B. The Triune God and His chosen and redeemed people are constituted into one organic entity, which is the Body of Christ; this is the crystallized significance of the Body of Christ.
- C. The Body of Christ is constituted with the Triune God and His redeemed people, with His redeemed people as the outward framework and the Triune God as the inward element.
- D. Two essences constitute the Body of Christ:
 - 1. One essence is the processed Triune God, which is the divine element, and the other essence is the tripartite regenerated man, which is the human element; these two elements are two constituents.
 - 2. The constituent of the Triune God enters into us to mingle with us, the tripartite man, to produce the Body of Christ.
- E. Ephesians 4:4-6 presents the real scenery of the Body of Christ:
 - 1. It is a great light to see that in these verses four persons—the Body, the Spirit, the Lord, and God the Father—are grouped together and are actively mingled together.
 - 2. The Spirit, the Lord, and the Father are doing one work—to mingle Themselves with the Body.
 - 3. The Father is embodied in the Son, the Son is realized as the Spirit, and the Spirit is mingled with the believers; this mingling is the constitution of the Body of Christ.
 - 4. The four persons in Ephesians 4:4-6 form a unity, an entity, and this entity is the Body of Christ.
- F. “The essential, crystallized significance of the Body of Christ is that the Triune God is constituted with His chosen and redeemed people to become a constitution, a constituted entity. Unless we see this crystallized, essential significance of the Body of Christ, there will be no way to carry out what we are trying to do in the church today. If we see this essential significance, there will be no problem whatever” (*The Governing and Controlling Vision in the Bible*, pp. 28-29).