

## KNOWING THE BODY—THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BODY

Morning Session—Message Four

### The Genuine Oneness of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:2-6, 13; John 17:11, 14-23; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 12:24b, 27

#### **I. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the oneness of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:3-6:**

- A. The recovery is based upon the truth that Christ has only one Body.
- B. To take care of the Body is to take care of the oneness of the Body; the Body can exist and survive only in oneness.
- C. The Lord desires to recover the missed Body of Christ and the neglected oneness of the Body of Christ; this is the Lord's recovery.

#### **II. The oneness of the Body of Christ is divine and is divinely organic—John 17:11, 14-23, 3:**

- A. The oneness of the Body of Christ is divine; it is something of God and something that even is God.
- B. The oneness of the Body of Christ is actually the triune, organic, living God Himself—Eph. 4:4-6:
  - 1. The issue of the one God and Father, the one Lord, and the one Spirit is one organism—the Body of Christ.
  - 2. The oneness of the Body of Christ is unique because it is a oneness in the uniqueness of the Triune God—John 17:11, 14-23:
    - a. God the Father is the source as our nature and life, God the Son is the element of this nature and life, and God the Spirit is the essence of the element—Eph. 4:4-6.
    - b. Because we have the Triune God within us as the source, the element, and the essence, we are one.
    - c. In this oneness with the Triune God, we have oneness with one another; this is the oneness of the Body of Christ.
- C. The oneness of the Body of Christ is not only of God but also of life—the divine, uncreated life; therefore, the oneness of the Body of Christ is divinely organic and full of life—John 17:3; 1:4; 14:6; 1 John 5:11-12.
- D. Because the Body of Christ is the mingling of the Triune God with His redeemed and transformed people, the Body itself is the oneness—Eph. 4:4-6.

#### **III. All the believers should be in the divine and mystical realm of the pneumatic Christ and the consummated Spirit to be mingled with the Triune God for the keeping of the oneness—John 17:21, 23; Eph. 4:3:**

- A. Our oneness must be the same as the oneness among the three of the Triune God; actually, our oneness is the oneness of the Triune God—John 17:21, 23.
- B. Our oneness should be in the Triune God, with the pneumatic Christ and the consummated Spirit; to have such a oneness we must be in the Triune God as a divine and mystical realm.

**IV. The oneness of the Body of Christ is the oneness of the Spirit—Eph. 4:3:**

- A. The Spirit is the essence of the Body of Christ; hence, the Spirit is the reality of the oneness of the Body of Christ.
- B. The reason that we need to keep the oneness of the Spirit is that we are all one Body—v. 4.
- C. We need to keep the oneness of the Spirit in order to arrive at the oneness in practicality—the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God—v. 13.

**V. We need to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace with the transformed human virtues—vv. 2-3:**

- A. Although the oneness is the oneness of the Spirit, the keeping of the oneness is our responsibility, not the responsibility of the Spirit.
- B. Christ has abolished on the cross all the differences due to ordinances; in so doing, He has made peace for His Body—2:14-16:
  - 1. This peace should bind all believers together, thus becoming the uniting bond of peace.
  - 2. We need to keep the oneness of the Spirit by remaining in the uniting bond of peace.
- C. The keeping of the oneness in 4:3 requires the virtues mentioned in v. 2:
  - 1. These virtues are not found in our humanity but in the humanity of Jesus.
  - 2. In the uniting Spirit—signified by the uniting bars of the tabernacle—there is the transformed humanity—Exo. 26:15-30:
    - a. The uniting Spirit has not only divinity, typified by the gold, but also humanity, typified by the acacia wood.
    - b. The uniting bars signify the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit to become the uniting bond of peace.
    - c. The uniting Spirit crosses through all the members of the Body when the spirits of the members are willing to be crossed by Him; through this willingness and this crossing, we have the oneness.

**VI. In order to keep the oneness of the Body, we need the fellowship of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 10:16; Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3:**

- A. Since the Body of Christ is uniquely one universally, the fellowship of the Body of Christ is also uniquely one universally.
- B. The local churches should fellowship with all the genuine local churches on the whole earth to keep the fellowship of the Body of Christ; any church that does not keep this fellowship is divisive and becomes a sect—Rev. 2:7a.
- C. As we enjoy Christ in partaking of His blood and body at His table, we express and practice the fellowship of the Body of Christ, the unique fellowship among the churches—1 Cor. 10:16-17.

**VII. Blending is the most helpful thing in keeping the oneness of the universal Body of Christ—12:24b, 27:**

- A. The blending is for the building up of the universal Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem—Eph. 1:23; Rev. 21:2.
- B. The churches should come together frequently to be blended.