

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2008**

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BELIEVERS

Message Forty-Three

**Their Present—Experiencing
the Dispensing of the Divine Trinity Corporately
by Living in the Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 20, 24-25, 27; Rom. 12:4-5

- I. The believers experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity corporately by living in the Body of Christ as revealed in 1 Corinthians:**
- A. In one Spirit we were all baptized into one organic entity, the Body of Christ, and we were all given to drink one Spirit—12:13:
 - 1. To be baptized in the Spirit is to get into the Spirit and to be lost in Him; to drink the Spirit is to take the Spirit in and to have our being saturated with Him.
 - 2. By these two procedures we are mingled with the Spirit and are thereby constituted into the one Body of Christ—6:17; 12:20, 27.
 - B. The one Body is the one church of God, manifested in many localities as many local churches; the building up of a local church is not only for its own building up locally but also for the building up of the entire Body universally—1:2; 12:27.
 - C. The one bread signifies the one Body of Christ; we are all one Body because we all partake of one bread—10:17; 5:7-8; 10:3:
 - 1. The Christ of whom we all partake constitutes us His one Body.
 - 2. When we jointly partake of the bread, which symbolizes the individual body of Christ, it comes into us to make us one bread, which signifies the corporate Body of Christ—12:12.
 - 3. The one bread signifies not only our participation in the life of Christ but also the fellowship of the Body of Christ—10:16-17.
 - D. The Body of Christ is the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ—12:12:
 - 1. Christ in Himself is the Head, and Christ in all of us is the Body—Eph. 1:22-23.
 - 2. The Lord Jesus in Himself is the Head, but when He is constituted into us, He is the Body—Col. 1:18; 2:19; 3:4, 10-11, 15.
 - 3. All the believers of Christ are organically united with Him and constituted with His life and element and have thus become His Body, an organism to express Him—1 Cor. 6:17; John 15:1, 4-5; Col. 3:4, 10-11, 15.
 - E. Blending is the most helpful thing in keeping the oneness of the Body—1 Cor. 12:24-25.

II. The believers experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity corporately by living in the Body of Christ as revealed in Romans:

- A. The will of God is to obtain a Body for Christ to be His fullness, His expression—12:2, 4-5; Rev. 4:11; Eph. 1:5, 9:
 - 1. To live the Body life is to “prove what the will of God is”—Rom. 12:2, 4-5.
 - 2. If we are proper members of the Body, acting and functioning in the church life, we will be persons in the will of God—1 Cor. 1:1-2; Eph. 1:1; 5:17.
- B. We are one Body in the organic union with Christ—Rom. 12:4-5:
 - 1. Romans 12 speaks of the Body from the angle of the organic union, the uniting life, the life that unites us together, not only with Christ but with all the other members of Christ—vv. 4-5.
 - 2. We are one Body in Christ, having an organic union with Him; this union makes us one in life with Christ and with all the other members of His Body:
 - a. The Body is not an organization or a society but an organism produced by the union in life that we have in Christ—John 15:1.
 - b. The Body is something that is held together in the organic union with Christ, and the actuality of the Body is the remaining in the organic union with Christ—vv. 4-5.
- C. If we would live the Body life, a life in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to live a grafted life in the divine dispensing—Rom. 6:5; 8:6, 10-11; 11:17:
 - 1. God desires that the divine life and the human life be joined together to become one life that has one living; this union in life is a grafted life—a life in which two parties are joined and grow together organically—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - 2. Through grafting we are united, mingled, and incorporated with Christ to become in Him the organic Body of Christ—John 15:1, 4-5; Rom. 12:4-5.
- D. In order for the Body of Christ to be built up, we need to reign in life, that is, to be under the ruling of the divine life—5:17, 21; 12:1-16:
 - 1. Every aspect of the living of the Body life in Romans 12—16 requires us to be ruled by the divine life.
 - 2. We can live a life of the highest virtues for the Body life only by reigning in life—12:9-12, 15-16, 18.
 - 3. When we are reigning in life, living under the ruling of the divine life, the issue is the real and practical Body life—5:17, 21; 12:4-5.
- E. The local churches are the practical expression of the Body of Christ—16:1-5a, 16b, 23:
 - 1. Although the churches appear in different places, they are not separate, and although they are local, they are still part of the unique universal Body of Christ—12:4-5; 16:16b.
 - 2. Romans 16 displays the real and practical Body life; here we see that all the churches and all the saints live in the universal fellowship of the Body of Christ.
 - 3. When we live in the fellowship of the Body of Christ and express this Body in the local churches, the result will be God’s crushing of Satan under our feet, our enjoying the grace of Christ and the peace of God, and the giving of glory to the only wise God—vv. 20, 27.

Principles of the Body

- I. The Body is one—Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:4a; 2:16a.
- II. The church as the Body of Christ is absolutely a matter of life—John 17:2; 1 John 5:11-12; Col. 3:4.
- III. Since the Body of Christ is Christ, if we would be in the Body, we must be made Christ—1 Cor. 12:12; Col. 3:10-11.
- IV. The function of the Body is to express Christ—Eph. 1:22-23.
 - V. The reality of the Body of Christ is a group of God's redeemed who have been made God, the God-men, by God and who live not by themselves but by another life, which is the processed and consummated Triune God—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:10.
- VI. The Body of Christ is absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ—John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18; 2:8; Phil. 3:10.
- VII. The Body of Christ is a new creation—Gal. 6:15; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:15; 4:24.
- VIII. The work of the cross consummates with the Body and ushers us into the Body—2:16; 1 Cor. 1:18; 2:2; 12:12-13, 27.
 - IX. If we would understand and enter into the life of the Body, we must know the authority of the Head—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15; 5:23; 1:22, 10.
 - X. Spirituality is a Body matter—4:16.
 - XI. We need to care for the feeling of the Body and the peace of the Body—v. 3; 2:14-16; Col. 3:15.
 - XII. We need to have the consciousness of the Body, a Body-consciousness—1 Cor. 12:26-27; Rom. 12:15; Eph. 4:16; 2:21-22.
- XIII. The supply of the Body is the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, typified by the compound ointment, the holy anointing oil—Phil. 1:19-21a; Exo. 30:23-25.
- XIV. In the Body there can be no independence or individualism, for we are members, and members cannot live in detachment from the Body—1 Cor. 12:27; Rom. 12:5; Eph. 5:30.
- XV. If we live in the Body, we will experience the protection of the Body—6:11-19.
- XVI. As members of the Body, we must allow ourselves to be limited by the other members, not going beyond our measure—4:7, 16; 2 Cor. 10:13; 1 Cor. 12:18.
- XVII. The Body has its proper order—vv. 14-22.

- XVIII. Mutuality is the characteristic of the Body, and the functioning of the Body is mutual; thus, our relationship in the Body is one of mutuality and interdependence—vv. 14-25.**
- XIX. The divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ—1:9; 12:20, 24, 27; Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3.**
- XX. We should always consider the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, and do what is best for the Body—1 Cor. 12:23-27.**