

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2023**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES**

Message Twelve

A Grafted Life

Scripture Reading: Rom. 11:17-24; 12:2; 8:29; John 15:1, 4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Cor. 3:18

I. The Bible reveals that the relationship which God desires to have with man is that He and man become one—1 Cor. 6:17:

- A. God desires that the divine life and the human life be joined together to become one life—John 15:1, 4-5.
- B. In His desire to be one with man, God created man in His image and according to His likeness and with a spirit—Gen. 1:26.
- C. God created man with the breath of life for a spirit so that man may contact Him, receive Him, and contain Him—2:7.
- D. God's oneness with man is a union of life—a grafted life—1 Cor. 6:17; John 15:4-5.

II. It is crucial that we see a vision of the grafted life—Rom. 11:17-24:

- A. In grafting, two similar lives are joined together—John 15:4-5.
- B. Our human life resembles the divine life; therefore, the divine life and the human life can be grafted together—Gen. 1:26; 2:7.
- C. Paul uses the illustration of branches from a wild olive tree being grafted into a cultivated olive tree—Rom. 11:17-24.
- D. As a result of grafting, the branches from the wild olive tree and the cultivated olive tree grow together organically—cf. John 15:1, 4-5.

III. In order for us to be grafted into Christ, He had to pass through the processes of incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection:

- A. Christ became flesh to be the seed of David, the branch of David, so that we may be grafted together with Him—1:14; Matt. 1:1; Zech. 3:8; Jer. 23:5; 33:15:
 - 1. As human beings, we are branches, pieces of wood.
 - 2. Christ came as the branch of David to be the same as we are so that He and we could be grafted together—Rom. 11:17.
- B. Christ was “cut” on the cross to make it possible for us to be grafted into Him—Matt. 26:2:
 - 1. Grafting requires cutting; two branches cannot be grafted together unless both have been cut:
 - a. Christ was cut when He died on the cross—Gal. 2:20a; Rom. 6:6.
 - b. We were cut when we repented and received the Lord—Mark 1:15; John 1:12-13.
 - 2. After the cutting occurs, the joining and the organic union take place; therefore, in grafting we have the cutting, the joining, and the organic union—Rom. 11:17, 24.
- C. After Christ was cut on the cross, He was resurrected to become the life-giving Spirit—1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17a:
 - 1. Through death and resurrection Christ was transformed from “wood” into the Spirit, “the Lord Spirit” (v. 18b), and was ready for grafting.

2. Once we repent and receive the Lord, He as the life-giving Spirit enters into our spirit, bringing the divine life into us, and we are grafted together with Him—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.
3. After we have been grafted into Christ, we should no longer live by ourselves but allow the pneumatic Christ to live in us—Gal. 2:20.

IV. The grafted life is not an exchanged life but the mingling of the human life with the divine life—Rom. 11:17, 24; 1 Cor. 6:17:

- A. Some Christian teachers regard the Christian life as an exchanged life.
- B. According to the concept of an exchanged life, we yield our human life to the Lord, and He replaces it with His superior life.
- C. The Christian life is not an exchanged life but a grafted life, the mingling of the human life with the divine life—Rom. 11:17, 24; John 15:1-5:
 1. Instead of exchange, there is the dispensing, the infusing, of the divine life into the human life and the mingling of the divine life with the human life—2 Cor. 13:14.
 2. Whatever Christ is and whatever He has done are altogether for one thing—that He and we could be organically united and live a grafted life—John 15:4-5; 1 John 2:28.

V. In the grafted life the human life is not eliminated but is strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine life—John 3:15; Rom. 5:10, 17; Phil. 3:10-11:

- A. In the grafted life the branch still retains its same essential characteristics, but its life is uplifted and transformed by being grafted into a higher life—Rom. 6:4-5; 7:6:
 1. The higher life subdues the lower life.
 2. The higher life enriches, uplifts, and transforms the lower life—Eph. 3:8; Rom. 12:2.
- B. In the grafted life the divine life works within us to discharge the negative elements:
 1. The divine life works in a gradual way to eliminate whatever is natural—11:21, 24.
 2. The divine life swallows our defects and infirmities—1 Cor. 15:54; 2 Cor. 5:4.
 3. The negative element in our disposition is killed, and then, instead of casting away our disposition, the Lord uplifts it and uses it—v. 17.
- C. In the grafted life the divine life resurrects God's original creation—John 11:25; Phil. 3:10-11:
 1. Instead of giving up His creation, God will reclaim it and restore it by the resurrection power of His life—Gal. 6:15; 2 Cor. 5:17.
 2. God intends to bring all aspects of our being into resurrection—Phil. 3:10:
 - a. As the divine life discharges the negative things, it works to resurrect our original creation—v. 11.
 - b. In this way our original functions—the functions given to us at creation—are restored, strengthened, and enriched—1 Cor. 1:5; Eph. 3:8; cf. 2 Cor. 9:11.
- D. In the grafted life our faculties are uplifted—5:17:
 1. As the divine life resurrects our faculties, it uplifts them to the highest level.
 2. This produces in the believers a highly developed character.
- E. In the grafted life the divine life supplies the riches of Christ to our inward parts—Eph. 3:8:
 1. Our resurrected and uplifted faculties are supplied with the riches of Christ—vv. 16-19.
 2. Through such a supply we are renewed in our mind, emotion, and will—Rom. 12:2.
- F. In the grafted life the divine life saturates our whole being—8:2, 10, 6, 11:
 1. The riches of Christ saturate us and cause a genuine metabolic transformation—2 Cor. 3:18.
 2. By this saturation of the divine life we will be constituted with the all-inclusive Christ.
- G. Through this mingled and grafted life we will be fully transformed and conformed to the image of Christ, God's firstborn Son—Rom. 12:2; 8:29.
- H. The divine life is able to do such a work within us, but we need to exercise our spirit and heart to contact the Lord and pray concerning what He has shown to us—Eph. 1:16-23; 3:14-19.