

#3 Being in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Living in the Organic Union and in the Mingled Spirit and by Being Conformed to Christ's Death

Thanksgiving Special Conference 2019/1/28-2/3

I. We enter into the reality of the Body of Christ by living in the organic union with Christ:

Rom. 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection.

A. The relationship that God desires to have with man is that He and man be grafted together and thus become one in an organic union:

① God desires that the divine life and the human life be joined together to become one life; this oneness is an organic union, a union in life. ② To believe into Christ is to receive Him as the divine life into us that we may have an organic union with Him in the divine life.

B. Romans 12 speaks of the Body from the angle of the organic union, from the uniting life, from a life that unites us together, not only with Christ but with all the other members of Christ:

Rom. 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **(Mon)**

① The focus, the center, of the Christian life is the Body, which is the high point of God's revelation and the ultimate item of God's continual working. ② We are one Body in Christ, having an organic union with Him: **a.** *In Christ* always implies the fact of being organically one with Christ. **b.** This union makes us one in life with Christ and with all the other members of His Body. **c.** The Body is not an organization or a society but is altogether an organism produced by the union in life that we have with Christ.

③ To be properly organic in the Body is to be organically united with Christ: **a.** The Body is something that is held together in the organic union with Christ. **b.** The actuality of the Body is the remaining in the organic union with Christ.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. **(Tue)**

II. We live in the reality of the Body of Christ by living in the mingled Spirit: Rom. 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit. 1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

A. God's unique purpose is to mingle Himself with us so that He becomes our life, our nature, and our content, and we become His expression.

B. The Body of Christ is the enlargement of Christ, the God-man, the One who is the mingling of God and man: ① We need to understand the Body of Christ from the perspective of the mingling of God and man. ② In the Gospels the mingling of God and man produced the Head; in Acts the enlargement of the mingling of God and man produced the Body of Christ. ③ The processed and consummated Triune God mingles Himself with His chosen people in their humanity,

and the mingling is the genuine oneness of the Body of Christ. **(Wed)**

④ The church as the Body of Christ is a group of people who allow God to be mingled with them and who are mingled with God. ⑤ The reality of the Body of Christ is a living by the God-man, who are united, mingled and constituted together with God by the mingling of humanity with divinity and divinity with humanity.

C. The Body of Christ is absolutely a matter in the mingled spirit; thus, to be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to live in the mingled spirit: Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ. 16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love. ① The union of God and man is a union of the two spirits, the Spirit of God and the spirit of man; the union of these two spirits is the deepest mystery in the Bible. ② The focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus. **(Thu)**

③ The implications of 1 Corinthians 6:17 are marvelous and far-reaching. ④ To be one spirit with the Lord implies that we are in Him and that He is in us. ⑤ We and He have been organically mingled, blended, to become one in life; we and Christ are one wonderful, living entity. ⑥ The divine Spirit and the human spirit are mingled as one within us so that we can live the life of a God-man, a life that is God yet man yet God; this is the reality of the Body of Christ.

III. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living of conformity to the death of Christ: Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

A. To be conformed to Christ's death is to take Christ's death as a mold: ① The mold of Christ's death refers to Christ's experience of continually putting to death His human life that He might live by the life of the Father. ② The life of Jesus is a mold for us, and we should be the mass reproduction of this model. ③ Our life should be conformed to the mold of Christ's death by our dying daily to our human life to live the divine life. **(Fri)**

B. In order to be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be conformed to the death of Christ through the cross:

① The cross—the death of Christ—is the centrality and universality of our way to live the Christian life in order to fulfill God's purpose. ② In our experience the turning point in living a life with Christ is the cross. ③ As Christ's continuation, we should live a crucified life every day. 2 Cor. 4:11 For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

C. Such a life of dying to ourselves and living to God is for Christ, the first God-man, to be formed in His many members, the many God-man, for the building up of His organic Body.

D. We must be those who live a crucified life by continually taking Christ's death as the mold of our life; it is only by this kind of corporate living that we can have the reality of the Body of Christ. **(Sat)**

Crucial Point①: Live within the organic union with the Lord, go forth and bear fruit

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. **1 Cor. 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

OL1: In Christ always implies the fact of being organically one with Christ.

OL2: This union makes us one in life with Christ and with all the other members of His Body.

OL3: The Body is not an organization or a society but is altogether an organism produced by the union in life that we have with Christ.

OL4: To be properly organic in the Body is to be organically united with Christ.

The Body of Christ is altogether a matter of life and a matter of remaining in our organic union with Christ. When we remain in this organic union, we are in the Body. When we do not remain in this organic union, we are practically and experientially out of the Body. The actuality of the Body is to remain in this organic union with Christ. In order to actually live in the Body life, we must remain in the organic union with Christ. This is simply to remain in Christ. In John 15 the Lord Jesus tells us that He is the vine, we are the branches, and we should abide in Him. To abide in Him means to remain in an organic union with Him. When we remain in this organic union with Christ, we are actually living in the Body. But if we do not remain in this organic union, for all practical purposes we have left the Body. For instance, when we speak by ourselves and apart from Christ, we have left the Body. Our gossip, our free talk, and our loose conversation are all signs that we have left the Body.

The Body is not merely a group of Christians coming together. The Body is something that is held together in the organic union with Christ....In order to realize the Body of Christ, we need to fully experience the organic union with Christ with a thorough realization that we are organically one with Christ in life. If we do not realize the organic union in Christ, in practicality we are outside of the Body and apart from the Body.

Application: For Junior High and High School Students/College Students

When you called upon the name of the Lord and believed in His name, the Spirit of the Lord came into your human spirit and united with you. With this, you do not have to do anything with effort. You are already united with the Lord in your spirit. You just only praise the Lord, enjoy the union with the Lord, and stay in it.

The union is a union in life, indicated by a union between a vine and its branch. Let the Lord's word abide in you, exercise your spirit and attach your mind to the spirit. Then You can live in the Lord in reality and stay in the organic union with the Lord.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

FN 「If you abide in Me and My words abide in you」: When we abide in the Lord and let His words abide in us, we actually are one with Him, and He works within us. Then, when we ask in prayer for whatever we will, it is not only we who are praying; He too is praying, in our praying. This kind of prayer is related to fruit-bearing and will surely be answered.

In order to live in the Lord, in the organic union with the Lord in action, we need to pray-read the word of the Lord and let the word of the Lord abide in you. According to the degree of your life and spiritual appetite, please sanctify 5-40 minutes (especially morning time), read and pray-read the word with brothers and sisters. And when you go to school, please let the word of the Lord abide inside. Then your studies will be raised in the union with the Lord. Please experience and enjoy the union with the Lord at school life.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.

FN “go forth”: The Greek word for go forth means to depart, implying to leave for another place; hence, it is rendered go forth. The fruit borne by going forth in this way ... denotes the believers produced by the fruit-bearer. This corresponds with the subject of this section, 12:20-17:26, which is Christ's multiplication.

In order to stay in the union with the Lord, you should have a burden on people and pray for people to be saved. Such prayers are surely granted. After praying, go forth, contact people and preach the gospel to them. To live in the Lord and enjoy the richness of the Lord is not simply to make you a good student. It is to go forth and preach the gospel to bear fruit, so that the fruit will remain. This going forth includes not only actually going out but also contacting people by LINE etc. In order for Christ to multiply, you as the branch of the vine should live in the Lord, go forth and preach the gospel. In Japan, the Christian population is 0.7% of the population, so most people have never heard the gospel, the word of God. Because you have received the mercy of the Lord and be saved earlier, please listen to the Lord's command to go out to bear fruit. That way your student life will be greatly blessed.

Prayer: “O Lord Jesus, I praise the Lord for the fact that the Lord is organically united with me. What I need is to pray-read the word of the Lord, to let Him live within me, to continue to live in the Lord, the vine. When I abide in the Lord as the branch and enjoy the Lord, the Lord will tell me to go forth to bear fruit. I hope to preach the gospel to sons of peace around me.”

Hymn 1163 Experience of Christ—Abiding in Him

1 He's the vine and we're the branches,
We should e'er abide in Him,
And let Him abide within us
As the flow of life within.

(C) In the vine, in the vine, In the vine, in the vine,
We would know Thee, Lord, more deeply,
E'er abiding in the vine.

2 As we hear His instant speaking,
He's the rich indwelling Word;
To abide we must be faithful
To the speaking that we've heard.

3 For 'tis here we know abiding
In the real and deepest way;
If we love our Lord completely,
We would do whate'er He'd say.

5 Oh, how precious this abiding,
Oh, how intimate and sweet;
As the fruit of life is added,
And our joy is made complete.

Crucial Point②: To be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to live in the mingled spirit

I Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

FN「one spirit」: This indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit. Our spirit has been regenerated by the Spirit of God, who is now in us and is one with our spirit. This is the realization of the Lord, who became the life-giving Spirit through resurrection and who is now with our spirit. This mingled spirit is often referred to in Paul's Epistles.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

FN「with our spirit」: This reveals that the Spirit of God today, the all-inclusive Spirit of the Triune God, dwells in our regenerated human spirit and works in our spirit. These two spirits are one; they live together, work together, and exist together as one mingled spirit.

OL1: The Body of Christ is absolutely a matter in the mingled spirit; thus, to be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to live in the mingled spirit.

OL2: The focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus.

What is the Body of Christ practically speaking? It is the mingled spirit....If we would see this, we would say, "Lord,... the reality of the Body is right within me. The regenerated spirit and the indwelling Spirit are now one, mingled together right within me. I do not need to pray; I do not need to wait....Every-thing is within me. I just walk according to this mingled spirit. I just set my mind on the spirit. Life is here, and peace is here.

Actually, to walk according to the spirit means to walk according to both the divine Spirit and the human spirit, according to the two spirits mingled as one....This is the focus of the divine economy. Whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus. If we would have certain basic spiritual experiences, we must have a clear understanding that the focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit.

We live not only according to the conscience but according to the mingled spirit....Here, on this [highest] level, we have the Christian life and also the church life.... We should walk according to this, that is, according to the mingled spirit. We should be a person in such a spirit as was the apostle John in Revelation.

Application: for Young Working/Graduate Student Saints

Rev. 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day.

FN「in spirit」: This book stresses not only the Spirit of God as the sevenfold intensified Spirit for God's intensified move, but also our human spirit as the organ for us to realize and respond to God's move. Only spirit (our spirit) can respond to Spirit (God's Spirit).

FN「the Lord's Day」: Here the Lord's Day should be the first day of the week, the day the Lord was resurrected. The early church met regularly on this day. It was on this day that John was in spirit and saw the visions of God's economy.

The Spirit of God and our spirit are not only joined but blended together and became the mingled spirit. Please

recognize and experience "the organic union with the Lord" and "the Spirit of the Lord came into our spirit to be the mingled spirit" by faith. To recognize these things means that this is the accomplished fact and you don't need to pray for the accomplishment. Upon this understanding, you should exercise the mingled spirit.

The goal of God's economy is the building and the focus, the central point to reach the building is the mingled spirit. As a business person or a researcher in the graduate school, please exercise the mingled spirit to work and study. For the building up of the Body of Christ, your life with testimony in your daily life depends on the exercise of the mingled spirit. In the mingled spirit the divine riches, wisdom, understanding, endurance, keen discernment, love and sympathy toward people will become your experience. Especially when you face the hard case or difficulty, by exercising the mingled spirit, you will be able to handle these matters properly by gaining insight and excellent wisdom and understanding.

I Cor. 2:11 For who among men knows the things of man, except the spirit of man which is in him? In the same way, the things of God also no one has known except the Spirit of God. **12** But we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been graciously given to us by God;

14 But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know them because they are discerned spiritually.

15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.

16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

However, the spiritual experience in the daily life is not only for you to become an excellent business person or researcher, but it is ultimately for the building up of the Body of Christ. The building up of the Body is the goal of God's economy. So please reconfirm that the blessings in the daily life are for the building of the Body. You should consecrate your business life and research life and yourself to the Lord. And please speak Christ whom you experienced to the 6 kinds of new ones as the gospel. The important secret in speaking the gospel is to exercise the mingled spirit. If you do this, the flow of the water of life will flow out from you and water them and supply people.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I have the spirit that was the mingling of the Spirit of God and the human spirit. Hallelujah! Thank the Lord. In the mingled spirit, God is with me so that I can experience the excellent virtues such as Christ's insight, wisdom, understanding, the heart that loves and forgives others. And this is for speaking out of experiences of Christ as the gospel to the 6 kinds of new ones to build up the Body. Amen!"

450 Experience God — In the spirit

- 1 ひとに対すかみのストーリー, みな霊にある;
ひとはかみの本しつを, 霊で経験する。
(復)霊は霊を生み, 霊は霊を拝す;
霊, ことばとなり, 生けるみずはながる。
- 6 かみのすべてのゆたか, みな霊にある;
つねに霊でかみ, 呼吸し, 経験し, 享受す。

I . The High Gospel

Topic 5: There Is God (Part 2)

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Rom. 1:20 For the invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse.

GOD REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURE

The Bible reveals to us the titles of God. Among the many titles for God in the Old Testament, primarily only three are used—Elohim, Jehovah, and Adonai. Elohim is a plural noun in Hebrew. It implies the notion of “the faithful strong One.” God is strong and faithful. He is strong in strength and faithful in word. Jehovah means “I Am That I Am,” revealing that God is the self-existing and ever-existing One. He is the One who was in the past, who is in the present, and who is to come in the future. Adonai means “master” and “husband.” On the one hand, God is man’s Master; on the other hand, He is man’s Husband. In the New Testament there are many other titles, such a Father, Lord, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. All these reveal to us what and who God is.

All the prophets in the Old Testament spoke through the inspiration of God. It was God who put the words of prophecy into their mouths. The phrase “Thus says the Lord” is often repeated in the Old Testament. The wisdom of the prophets’ words and the fulfillment of their prophecies have proved that their words are indeed divinely inspired. One of the greatest prophecies concerns the destiny of the nation of Israel. The Bible prophesied that the Jews would be scattered throughout the world, but that at the appointed time the nation of Israel would be restored and the city of Jerusalem would be returned to the Jews. We can see this in our own time and the restoration of the nation of Israel in 1948 and the return of Jerusalem to the Jews in 1967. The establishing of that tiny nation in the Middle East is a living proof of God’s work in history.

GOD’S PLAN FOR MAN

His intention is that we would know Him. God has no intention to hide Himself. He intends that man would come to know Him first as the Creator and then as his God and his Father. God intends for man to worship Him. John 4:23 tells us that God seeks for true worshippers, those who would worship Him in spirit and in truthfulness. He has no intention for man to worship the things that He has created. The true worship of God is to worship with our spirit. In the past, man has set up many idols and

worshipped these things instead of God. But in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God forbids all forms of idol worship. He is the unique God. No other object is qualified to demand our worship.

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit. If a person wants to receive radio waves, he must use a radio receiver. If a man wants to receive a telephone call, he must pick up the telephone receiver. In the same way, if a man wants to worship God and contact Him, he must use his spirit. One cannot hear color with his ears, nor can one see music with his eyes. We need the right organ for the right substance. God is Spirit and is not anything material. This is why we must not worship Him with anything material, but must worship Him with our spirit.

The way to use our spirit is to pray by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus. If we will open our mouth and our heart and will pray to God, our spirit will touch Him, and God will be real to us.

The ultimate plan of God for man is that man would express God. The way to express God is to be filled with God. If we pray to Him and receive Him, God will come into us and will fill us.

He will not be an objective God outside of us anymore, but will be a subjective God inside of us. He will fill us with Himself and will change our whole being. To be a Christian is not merely to believe in some creeds or to learn some teachings. It is to know God, to worship Him, and to express Him by being filled with Him.

Hymn 12 Worship of the Father - His Greatness

1. My Father God, when on Thy vast creation.
The wonders of the heav'n and earth, I gaze.
Things great and small, beyond enumeration,
Which manifest Thy pow'r in untold ways;
(C) Then all my being sings in praise to Thee,
How marvelous! How great Thou art!
And this I'll sing through all eternity,
How marvelous! How great Thou art!
2. As I enjoy the grace of Thy salvation
And contemplate how Thou Thy Son hast sent,
Who died that we might be Thy new creation,
Thy life expressing to the full extent;
3. When in the church, in blest participation,
I see how millions Thine own life possess,
How they are built to form Thy habitation,
Containing Thee, Thy fulness to express;
4. As I expect the coming age of fulness
And hope to share the new Jerusalem,
With all the heavens and the earth in newness
And all Thou art expressed in all of them;