

#5 Living in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Living in the Inward Parts of Christ Jesus

Thanksgiving Special Conference 2019/2/11-17

I. If we would have the reality of the Body of Christ, we must allow Christ to make His home in our hearts:

A. The Body of Christ is built up by Christ as the Spirit entering into our spirit and spreading Himself from our spirit into our mind, emotion, and will to occupy our entire being. **Eph. 3:16** That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, **17** That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

B. The reality of the Body of Christ is the inner experience of the indwelling Christ.

C. It is only by the inner experience of Christ as life that we can have the reality of the Body of Christ.

D. When Christ makes His home in our hearts, we will be filled unto all the fullness of God; this fullness is the church, the Body of Christ, as the corporate expression of the Triune God.

E. The reality of the Body life is the issue of the immeasurable Christ making His home in our hearts.

F. The content of the church as the Body of Christ is the Christ who has been wrought into our being.

[Mon]

II. If we would live in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to live in the inward parts of Christ Jesus: **Phil.1:8** For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus. **Eph. 4:16** Our 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.

A. As a man, Christ had the human inward parts with their various functions, and Christ's experience in His inward parts were His experiences in His mind, emotion, will, soul, heart, and spirit, including His love, desire, feeling, thought, decision, motive, and intention.

[Tue]

B. Paul was a person who continually experienced Christ in His inward parts: **Phil. 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, **1**. Paul was one with Christ even in His inward parts—in His affection, tender mercy, and sympathy. **2**. Paul did not keep his own inward parts but took Christ's inward parts as his: **a.** Paul took not only Christ's mind but also His entire inner being. **b.** Paul's inner being was changed, rearranged, and remodeled. **c.** His inner being was reconstituted with the inward parts of Christ.

3. What was in Christ as truthfulness—honesty, faithfulness, and trustworthiness—was also in Paul. **4**. Paul's love for the saints was not his natural love but the love in Christ, which is Christ's love; thus, Paul loved the saints not by his natural love but by the love of Christ. **1** **Cor. 16:24** My love in Christ Jesus be with you all.

C. To live Christ requires that we remain in the inward parts of Christ Jesus: **1**. Paul experienced the inward parts of Christ; he was one with Christ in His inward parts in longing after the saints. **2**. Paul did not live a life in his natural inner

being; he lived a life in the inward parts of Christ. **3**. If we would be those who are in Christ, we must be in His inward parts, in His tender and delicate feeling. **4**. To live Christ is to abide in His inward parts and there to enjoy Him as grace.

D. In the book of Philemon we have a picture of the Body life lived in the inward parts of Christ Jesus. **[Wed]**

E. Paul lived in the reality of the Body of Christ by taking Christ's feeling as his own feeling; Christ's feeling for the Body became his feeling for the Body:

1. Paul took the inward parts of Christ Jesus as his own inward parts in caring for the Body of Christ. **2**. Like Paul, we should take the feeling of the Head as our own feeling; this is most necessary for our living in the reality of the Head in everything, we will consider the Body and care for the Body.

F. If we as members have the feeling of the Head in everything, we will consider the Body and care for the Body. **1 Cor. 12:26** And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it. **27** Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

III. The more we live in the inward parts of Christ Jesus, the greater will be our consciousness of the Body of Christ and the stronger will be our feeling for the Body of Christ:

[Thu]

A. As members of the Body of Christ, we need to have the consciousness of the Body and a feeling for the Body; the Body is universal, and the consciousness of the Body and a feeling for the Body are also universal.

B. In order to live in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be conscious of the Body of Christ. **Rom. 12:4** For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, **5** So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

C. The consciousness of the Body of Christ is the sense of Christ's life within us: **1**. If we exercise this sense, it will cause us to be conscious of matters related to the Body. **2**. If we cultivate this sense, it will enable us to detect problems in the Body. **3**. If we exercise this sense often and if we love the Lord and care for the church, this sense will become the sense, the consciousness, of the Body. **[Fri]**

D. When others suffer or are blessed, we will identify with them and feel the same hardship or blessing if we have the consciousness of the Body.

E. We cultivate the consciousness of the Body of Christ by living in the inward parts of Christ: **1**. Since we are members of the Body of Christ, we need to have the consciousness of the Body and have a feeling for the Body by living in the inward parts of Christ Jesus. **2**. By living in the inward parts of Christ Jesus, taking His feeling and view as our feeling and view, we will practice the church life in the reality of the Body of Christ. **Philem. 7** For I had much joy and encouragement over your love, because the inward parts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother. **12** Him I have sent back to you—him, that is, my very heart--

[Sat]

Crucial Point① : Experience Christ in His inward parts

OL : Paul was a person who continually experienced Christ in His inward parts. **Phil. 2:3** Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves; **4** Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also. **5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, v. 5 FN“this mind” : This refers to the considering in v. 3 and the regarding in v. 4. This kind of thinking, this kind of mind, was also in Christ when He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and humbled Himself, being found in fashion as a man. To have such a mind requires us to be one with Christ in His inward parts. To experience Christ, we need to be one with Him to this extent, that is, in His tender inward feeling and in His thinking.

Christ's inward parts denote all the inward parts of His being, including His mind, emotion, will, and heart with all their functions. The leading part...of our inner being...is the mind....The mind which was in Christ should be in us today. This means that we should take His mind as our mind. We should be those not with our own, natural mind but with the mind of Christ.

In **1 Corinthians 2:16b** Paul says, “We have the mind of Christ.” Because we are organically one with Christ, we have all the faculties He has. The mind is the intelligence faculty, the understanding organ. We have such an organ of Christ so we can know what He knows. Therefore, we may have not only the life but also the mind of Christ. Christ must saturate our mind from our spirit, making our mind one with His.

“I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus” (**Phil. 1:8**). The Greek word translated inward parts literally means “bowels,” signifying inward affection, then tender mercy and sympathy. Paul was one with Christ even in the bowels, the tender inward parts of Christ, in longing after the saints. This indicates that Paul did not keep his own inward parts but took Christ's inward parts as his. He took not only Christ's mind but also His entire inward being. Paul's inner being, therefore, was changed, rearranged, remodeled, reconstituted. His inner being was reconstituted with the inward parts of Christ. Paul did not live a life in his natural inner being; he lived a life in the inward parts of Christ.

“The truthfulness of Christ is in me” (**2 Cor. 11:10**). “Truthfulness” here means “honesty, faithfulness, trustworthiness.” What was in Christ as truthfulness, that is, as honesty, faithfulness, trustworthiness, was also in the apostle Paul.

“My love in Christ Jesus be with you all” (**1 Cor. 16:24**). Paul's love for the Corinthians was not his love but the love in Christ, which is Christ's love. Paul loved the saints not by his natural love but by the love of Christ.

Elsewhere in this chapter (Phil.) Paul speaks of magnifying Christ and living Christ. Experientially, to magnify Christ and to live Christ require that we remain in the inward parts of Christ.

Application : for Young Working/Graduate Student Saints

God's desire is that you will enjoy Christ, be filled with Christ, be composed of Christ, become one with Christ, and build up Christ's body by giving Christ to others.

Excellent companies in developed countries pay attention to people and invest heavily in Training for human resource development. Because it is human to carry out the business of the company. The Bible is paying more attention to people, and it is stated that they speak the words of God and supply them for building up, encouragement and consolation to men.

Team building (building up), encouragement and consolation are also necessary for work. The most wanted human resource for a company is a person who can build people as one team and advance the company towards the same goal (this is also the same for the church). Such a person should be able to encourage and comfort others. Otherwise it can not lead to building up.

1 Cor. 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men.

Managers of Japanese traditional companies tend to strictly request employees because they pay attention to details rather than the essence and passively think with a penalty reduction method. They do not encourage or comfort that much, so it is difficult to reach a team building. For example, they pay attention to points that employees can not do (at this time, they do not pay much attention to whether it is inherently important or not), they do not pay attention to the positive aspects that they can do.

Please read **2 Tim. 1:7**, “For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.” Whether in the service of the church or the work of the company, **(1)** Encourage and comfort people with love, **(2)** Distinguish between essentially important matters and secondarily important matters with sobermindedness, **(3)** Do all things with power, **(4)** Never become unbelief, do not be coward, please be bold. This spirit is your spirit that has been mingled with the Spirit of God.

The Lord has a feeling of tender heart for men. That is for all people to be fulfilled and to function. You need to have a burden on people, encourage, comfort and build up with a tender heart to them, to make them the people who can work or serve. In order to do such things, you should experience Christ inside His inward part and learn to make Christ's mind your own inner mind. You need to experience the crucifixion of your own desires, lusts, individualism and so on. Basically, it is necessary for a natural person to be crucified to the cross in order to make your own mind of others. Focus on the building up of the body which is the desire of God. Experience the cross, let the mind of Christ be your own mind and fulfill people. Amen!

Prayer : “O Lord Jesus, I love you and your desire. May the reality of the body of Christ expand in the church life. For that, I regard my mind as the mind of Christ in the church and in the company. Make me be able to fulfill people with a tender heart of Christ!”

Hymn 1225 The Church—As Christ's Body

- 1 Lord, to know Thee as the Body,
Is my desperate need today,
Oh, to see Thee in Thy members,
'Tis for this I long and pray.
No more just to know Thy headship
In an individual way,
But to see Thee incarnated,
As the Body-Christ, I pray.
- 4 Limit, Lord, my independence,
Let me to Thy Body turn;
Not just seeking light from heaven,
But the church's sense to learn.
May we be the stones for building
Not the formless, useless clay,
Gain in us Thy heart's desire
Corporately Thyself display.

Crucial Point ② : Have the feeling of the Head and care for the Body

OL: If we as members have the feeling of the Head in everything, we will consider the Body and care for the Body. 1 Cor.12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. 13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member but many. 15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed. 19 And if all were one member, where would the body be? 20 But now the members are many, but the body one. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary...26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.

We need to cultivate a consciousness of the Body by fellow-shiping more with the Lord. Our inner sense will spontaneously be developed as we fellowship more with the Lord. Furthermore, if we add obedience to this fellowship, our inner sense will become keener and richer. When a feeling comes, we should closely follow that feeling. If the inner sense desires us to stop, we should stop; if it desires us to go, we should go. In this way our inner sense will become keen and enriched. Our inner sense is developed through our fellowship with the Lord and our obedience to Him. Therefore, we should always exercise this sense. This means that we must always use this sense when we touch spiritual matters.

When we exercise the consciousness of the Body, a good situation will develop. A member who is in a difficult situation will not bear his burden alone, but his fellow members will bear the burden with him. We will no longer pray for someone simply because he asks us; rather, we will pray out of the burden in the Body. Sometimes one person's prayer is not enough; there is truly the need for the prayer of the Body, but this prayer is still spontaneous. For example, a person who is Body conscious can sense that a certain brother has a difficulty and a certain sister has a heavy burden. The sense of the brother's difficulty is communicated into him, and the sense of the sister's being pressed is also added to his spirit. He shares the same feeling with the brother and sister. This feeling presses him and forces him to go before the Lord to pray for the brother and sister. This intercession is an intercession that comes from the sense of the Body. There is such a thing in the Body that proves whether we are weak or strong inwardly and also proves the extent of our concern for the children of God, the members of Christ.

When a member of the Body suffers, all the members feel uncomfortable. It should also be like this when we serve together. When a person has a difficulty, everyone else should feel the same way; when a person rejoices,

everyone also rejoices together. This is the normal condition.

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

The church is not like the Body of Christ, but is the Body of Christ. Looking at the human body, you'll understand the universal Body of Christ. Your body has the organs like head, arms, legs, eyes, mouth and ears and nose and they are important for the body. In the same way, the Body of Christ has various brothers and sisters. And their functions are different, but they all function for the Body. Each member receives the function of the other members for the Body and they function for the Body.

You need to be helped by the function of the brothers and sisters in the intimate fellowship with the Lord. For instance, in deciding which college you would go, you can have fellowship with the brothers and sisters who have the experience. And also when you are having a trouble with people around, you can pray and fellowship with the elder brothers and sisters. Because you are a member in the Body, you can receive benefit from other members. So if you could see the clear vision of the Body and practice the Body life, your school life will be greatly blessed.

At the same time, please learn to function for the Body and for other brothers and sisters. The college students can help those who take entrance exams. And High school students can help the brothers and sisters in junior high and the upper grade of elementary school. Not only so, you can also help the brothers and sisters at your own age. The picture on the right shows a baby feeding the other baby. This is to show that as long as you can hold the bottle, although you are young, you can still shepherd others. Prov. 11:25 **The blessing soul will prosper, And he who waters will also be watered himself.**



You should suffer together with the suffering saints, and rejoice with the saints with the excellent success. This sharing of suffering and joy is also an important part of the Body life.

Prayer : 「Oh Lord Jesus, when I was baptized into the Body of Christ, I became a member of the Body of Christ. Thank the Lord. As a member of the Body, I can receive help from other members. Lord, open the eyes of my heart. Let me open to the saints and let me enjoy the help from them. Also I can pray for others and supply others to help them. I am not strong enough but I can hold the bottle. Let me help and supply especially the suffering saints as much as I can. And let me rejoice and celebrate with the one who had an excellent success and not to envy. Amen.」

840 The Church - Her Building

- 1 Freed from self and Adam's nature, Lord, I would be built by Thee
With the saints into Thy temple, Where Thy glory we shall see.
From peculiar traits deliver, From my independent ways,
That a dwelling place for Thee, Lord, We will be thru all our days.
- 2 By Thy life and by its flowing I can grow and be transformed,
With the saints coordinated, Builided up, to Thee conformed;
Keep the order in the Body, There to function in Thy will,
Ever serving, helping others, All Thy purpose to fulfill.
- 3 In my knowledge and experience I would not exalted be,
But submitting and accepting Let the Body balance me;
Holding fast the Head, and growing With His increase, in His way,
By the joints and bands supplying, Knit together day by day.

I . The High Gospel

Topic 6: Christ Is God (Part 2)

Heb. 1:8 But of the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

CHRIST'S DEATH PROVING THAT HE IS GOD

He foretold His death to His disciples before it took place. His death was an exact fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah foretold by the prophets hundreds of years before. In the Old Testament, Psalm 22:16-18 describes the scene at Christ's death: "For dogs surround me; a congregation of evildoers encloses me; they pierce my hand and feet. I count all my bones; they look, they stare at me. They divide my garments to themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." This is a vivid description of the way the Messiah was to die. If we read the record of the Gospels, we find that this was exactly the way Christ died. When Christ was hanging on the cross, His hands and feet were indeed pierced. The dehydration caused by the drainage of blood and water would surely have caused His tongue to stick to His jaws and His bones to stand out. Matthew 27:35 says that when the soldiers had crucified Christ, "they divided His garments among themselves, casting lots," a literal fulfillment of the words of the Old Testament prophecy.

The time and the way Christ died were foreshadowed hundreds of years before in the types of the Old Testament. When Christ died He said, "It is finished!". The death of Christ was not the end of Christ; rather, it was the capstone to His work. Christ's death set off supernatural events, which reflects the supernatural nature of His death. The Bible says that Christ died as the Substitute for all sinners. The eternal efficacy of Christ's redemptive death is a proof that Christ is God.

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION PROVING THAT HE IS GOD

He was in the grave for less than seventy-two hours. On the third day Christ rose from the grave. This is a historical fact, which no historian can overturn. He resurrected with a body and appeared to His disciples many times for forty days.

Many modern critics have dismissed the resurrection as a myth or a story that the early disciples fabricated. But the fact that so many witnesses saw Christ after His resurrection, and the fact that their encounter with the resurrected Christ brought about profound changes in their lives, are strong proof that the resurrection is not a fabrication. Before Christ's resurrection the disciples were fearful and disheartened; Peter even denied the Lord three times. After His resurrection the same group of people became bold and aggressive. Peter was the first one to stand up at Pentecost to preach to more than three thousand people. No fabrication can produce such a life-transforming change; nor could the

disciples have been in any kind of religious hallucination, because all of them spoke soberly and behaved responsibly. The early church was not a community of self-deceived lunatics but a body of proper, upright, and sober-minded believers. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the greatest historical fact in the history of mankind.

BELIEVING IN JESUS AS GOD

When a person calls on His name and believes in Him, Christ as the living Spirit enters into such a one and changes his life. Today you can experience Him by believing in Him. If you open your heart to Him, He will come into you to set up His kingdom within you. You will be brought out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Christ will be your new life within, and you will be a new person in Christ.

501. Experience of Christ - As Life

1. O glorious Christ, Savior mine,
Thou art truly radiance divine;
God infinite, in eternity,
Yet man in time, finite to be.
(C) Oh! Christ, expression of God, the Great,
Inexhaustible, rich, and sweet!
God mingled with humanity
Lives in me my all to be.
2. The fulness of God dwells in Thee;
Thou dost manifest God's glory;
In flesh Thou hast redemption wrought;
As Spirit, oneness with me sought.
3. All things of the Father are Thine;
All Thou art in Spirit is mine;
The Spirit makes Thee real to me,
That Thou experienced might be.
4. The Spirit of life causes Thee
By Thy Word to transfer to me.
Thy Spirit touched, Thy Word received,
Thy life in me is thus conceived.
5. In spirit while gazing on Thee,
As a glass reflecting Thy glory,
Like to Thyself transformed I'll be,
That Thou might be expressed thru me.
6. In no other way could we be
Sanctified and share Thy vict'ry;
Thus only spiritual we'll be,
And touch the life of glory.
7. Thy Spirit will me saturate,
Every part will God permeate,
Deliv'ring me from the old man,
With all saints building for His plan.