

#9: Practicing the Church Life, Speaking the Same Thing, and Doing the One Work in the Consciousness of the One New Man

(The One New Man Fulfilling God's Purpose in Creating Man) 2020/1/6-1/12

Overview: In Paul's days, the local churches along the Mediterranean coast had various nationalities, races, and classes, but the local churches were carrying out their church life with the consciousness of one new man (I, II). When we think of "the one new man" of Ephesians 2:15, "one mouth" of Romans 15:6, and "speak the same thing" of 1 Corinthians 1:10, we see the need of having Christ as our only person (III). There should not be several works in the Lord's recovery. All the co-workers in all regions should do the same work for the only body, that is, for the universal one new man (IV).

I. In Colossians 4:7-17 we have a practical illustration of the revelation of the one new man and of the consciousness of the one new man:

Col. 4:15-16 Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church, which is in his house. And when this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodiceda.

A. Both the saints in Colossae and Paul and those with him were members of the one new man in actuality and had the consciousness of the one new man.

B. Paul's word regarding the reading of the letters proves that there was no difference between the church in Laodicea and the church in Colossae; his word implies fellowship, oneness, harmony, and intimate contact.

C. In spite of all the differences among nationalities, races, and classes, there was on earth in a practical way the one new man created in Christ Jesus; there were not merely local churches in various cities—there was the one new man in a real and practical way.

D. "It is shameful for the church in any locality to isolate itself from other churches... This is utterly contrary to the consciousness of the new man. Any church that holds such an attitude has a consciousness only of itself, not of the totality of the new man. Those who insist on this attitude cause the new man to be fragmented, to be broken into pieces... Those who have this attitude lack the sense, the consciousness, of the new man" (Colossians LS#31). **Mon**

II. All the local churches in the different countries are one new man; thus, they need to practice the church life in the consciousness of the new man:

A. All the churches are not merely individual local churches but are the one new man: **Col. 3:10-11** And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

1. We cannot say that each local church is a new man; rather, all the local churches on earth are the one new man.

2. The one new man is a matter not merely of individual localities and individual churches but of all the churches on earth corporately.

B. When the one new man has been brought into full existence, we will not speak of the differences between the churches or of the jurisdiction and autonomy of the local churches:

1. At that time we all will be taking Christ as our person and living Christ; thus, only Christ will be among us, and only Christ will be manifested.

2. If we take Christ as our person and as our life, spontaneously we all will speak the same thing; then in a practical way we will be the one new man. **Tue**

C. Since the local churches are one new man, in deciding a matter in our local church, we need to consider the churches throughout the whole earth.

1 **Thes. 2:14** For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus...

Rom. 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

2 **Cor. 11:28** Apart from the things which have not been mentioned, there is this: the crowd of cares pressing upon me daily, the anxious concern for all the churches.

D. The churches will progress in the divine life to such an extent that eventually they all will be absolutely the same:

1. "We may not want to be the same as the other churches because of our pride, but according to the divine economy, the more that we are the same, the more glorious we are. It is glorious to imitate others, to follow others, and to be one with others in the spirit. We must learn from one another, be adjusted by one another, and receive grace from one another" ("The Divine Economy," pp. 105-106). **2.** "I do expect that the day will come when all the local churches look alike, and I believe that when that day comes, the Lord will return" (The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1975-1976, vol. 2, "The Church—the Reprint of the Spirit," p. 459).

E. What is here in the Lord's recovery is nothing but Christ, and this Christ is all and in all; this vision will rescue us from all things other than Christ.

F. The Lord intends to raise up His believers throughout all the world to seek Him, and when we seek Him, we will see that what He wants is the one new man expressed in the local churches. **Wed**

III. For the church as the universal one new man, we all need to take Christ as our person in the matter of speaking; we need to consider one new man in Ephesians 2:15 together with one mouth in Romans 15:6 and speak the same thing in 1 Corinthians 1:10:

Rom. 15:5-6 Now the God of endurance and encouragement great you to be of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus.

1 **Cor. 1:10** Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.

A. In the one new man there is one person with one mouth to speak the same thing.

B. There is only one new man, and the one new man has only one person, so the one new man speaks with one mouth and says the same thing.

C. In the past there were too many mouths because there were too many persons. **Thu**

D. **With one accord and with one mouth (Rom. 15:6)** mean that even though we are many and all are speaking, we all "speak(1 Cor. 1:10)":

1. The church is the one new man with only one person—Christ—and this person controls our speaking; thus, whatever He speaks is surely "the same thing." **2.** When we are about to speak, we need to resolve a basic question: In this matter of speaking, am I the person, or is Christ the person? **3.** If in our speaking we do not take ourselves as the person but allow Christ to be the person, then there will be one mouth, and everyone will speak the same thing.

E. In the one new man there is only one person, and only

this person has the freedom to speak; the Lord Jesus has the absolute freedom to speak, and our natural man has absolutely no freedom to speak.

F. Although we are many and come from many places, we all have one mouth and we all speak the same thing; this is because we all are the one new man having only one person.

Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace. **3:17** That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith...

1 Cor. 2:16 ...But we have the mind of Christ.

G. If we take Christ as our person and as our life, spontaneously we all will speak the same thing; then we will be the one new man in reality and practicality. **Fr**

IV . There should not be several works in the Lord's recovery; all the co-workers in all the regions should do the same one work for the unique Body, the universal one new man:

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. **16:10** Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without fear; for he is working the work of the Lord, even as I am.

A. "I hope that we will consider our present situation before the Lord. Are we doing the same one work for the recovery? If not, we should let the Lord have the freedom to adjust us" (The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1991-1992, vol. 1, "Elders' Training, Book 11: The Eldership and the God-ordained Way (3)," p. 239).

B. "In the Lord's move in His recovery, there should be only one work, not different works. Our situation is different from this. We have different works without any consciousness. This is dangerous" (pp. 239-240).

C. As God's fellow workers, working together with Him, we should do only one work—the work of the Lord:

1. Although Paul and Peter worked in different regions, they did not carry out two works; instead, they had only one work; the regions of the work should not divide the churches.

2. Concerning the work, the New Testament does not have the consideration of geographical regions; to bear a regional flavor is not scriptural, because all the members of the Body of Christ should bear the same flavor.

D. "You must have the assurance that, wherever you are and whatever you do, you are building up the center, the reality, and the goal of the eternal economy of God, which will attain the New Jerusalem" (The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1994-1997, vol. 2, "The Practical Way to Live a Life according to the High Peak of Divine Revelation in the Holy Scriptures," p. 81).

E. "Today on this earth...God wants to have another man, the new man...He wants to gain the one new man on earth...So we all need to rise up to take Christ as our corporate person. If we want to make a decision or live a certain kind of life, we cannot decide merely in ourselves; instead, we must take Christ as our person in the new man and with the new man. This requirement is great and high. In this way the new man grows and matures, and we will arrive at a full-grown man" (The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1977, vol. 3, "One Body, One Spirit, and One New Man," p. 325).

F. This will be the ultimate church life—a universal new man taking Christ as his person and living out Christ; this will conclude this age, usher in the kingdom, and bring the Lord back. **Sat**

Crucial Point(1):Scientific development causes to prepare the time for the one new man to be brought into existence. The one new man is for the Lord's second coming. (I , II)

OL1: In spite of all the differences among nationalities, races, and classes, there was on earth in a practical way the one new man created in Christ Jesus; there were not merely local churches in various cities—there was the one new man in a real and practical way.

OL2: All the local churches in the different countries are one new man; thus, they need to practice the church life in the consciousness of the new man.

The Epistle to the Colossians was sent from Rome to Colossae.... In the geographical region between Rome and Colossae were many different kinds of people. However, in this region near the Mediterranean, the new man had come into being and was living in a practical way. Although travel was not convenient, there was considerable traffic among the churches. There is a lesson for us here. Although we enjoy all the modern conveniences and means of transportation, there may not be as much traffic among the churches today as there was at the time of Paul. Furthermore, I have to admit that I have never composed a letter containing as many personal greetings as there are in the book of Colossians. Think of how many names are mentioned in 4:7-17: Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Barnabas, Justus, Epaphras, Luke, Demas, Nymphas, and Archippus. Paul also refers to the brothers in Laodicea, the church in the house of Nymphas, and the church of the Laodiceans.... All these names indicate that with Paul there was a sense, a consciousness, of the new man.

Due to modern inventions, transportation and communication have been greatly improved....We have all these things to bring people together. These modern inventions have condensed the whole globe [for God's purpose to perfect the one new man].

[The vision of the new man] will not only keep us in oneness but also will deliver us and rescue us from all things other than Christ. We need such a vision.

Everything on this earth is for the perfection of the new man. Today with the world politics, scientific inventions, modern transportation and communication, and our understanding of languages, the world has been condensed into a small sphere. There is nearly no hindrance for the new man to be perfected. Today everything is ripe, ready, and prepared for the new man to come forth. We all have to see where we are. We are at the end time, and this is the most golden time. This is the right time for the Lord's recovery.

Application to young working saints and graduate students

Please realize that this is the age at the end, the age that the second coming of Christ is so close. Because of the convenience of communication and transportation due to the achievement of the science, this is the age of borderless among countries, various news and situations are instantly seen by the whole world. This convenience is all for the one new man to be realized.

On the other hand, human race cannot deal with the change of the climate with its global warming due to Ozone depletion. Also the advanced countries G7 cannot decide

international rules, the whole world is in disorder. Although the development of science produces the riches, the population of starvation reaches 821,600,000, that is one out of 9, according to the research in 2018. This confusion and contradiction show that the world is now becoming the place where it is not good for people to live. Even this thing is for bringing the Lord to come back and to produce one new man.

Maybe you are the last runners and it is most likely the Lord would come back while you are still alive. Consider the situation well and may we broaden our vision to prepare for the Lord's coming and take the way of overcomers.

The way of overcomers(1): Gather manna every morning and experience Christ as the good land in the practical living at office or laboratory:

The real living like your business life is full of opportunity to experience and enjoy the produce of the good land. It is in the real living that you experience Christ as wisdom, insight, projectile force, power to break through, power to tie up, corresponding ability to the sudden change, bringing out potential, bring about synergistic effect, endurance, self-control and joy. After you gather manna every morning, please go to your office with high spirit to gain the various aspects of Christ in the business life full of requirements.

The way of overcomers(2): Go out for gospel and shepherding every week:

Please limit your overtime work and sanctify 2 hours for gospel and shepherding every week and go with brothers and sisters.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I love You and yearns Your coming. Let me realize this is the age at the end and take the way of overcomers. For this, after morning revival every morning, I enjoy Christ as the various produce in the good land in the real working life. The real living is for the positive purpose that I enjoy all-inclusive Christ. With this vision, I go to work every day with joy. And redeem my time to go out for the gospel and shepherding with the brothers and sisters every week. Lord, let me be one of Your overcomers."

Crucial Point(2): A local church is not the entire one new man, but is only a part of it. So we need to practice the church life in the consciousness of the one new man. (II. C-F, III)

OL1: We may not want to be the same as the other churches because of our pride, but according to the divine economy, the more that we are the same, the more glorious we are. It is glorious to imitate others, to follow others, and to be one with others in the spirit. We must learn from one another, be adjusted by one another, and receive grace from one another.

OL2: For the church as the universal one new man, we all need to take Christ as our person in the matter of speaking; we need to consider "one new man" in Ephesians 2:15 together with "one mouth" in Romans 15:6 and "speak the same thing" in 1 Corinthians 1:10.

The Lord's recovery today is not an ordinary Christian work. Rather, it is something particular and uncommon. This is the space age. Human culture has come from the river to the sea, from the sea to the ocean, and from the ocean into space. After this, where shall human culture go? This space age is the end time. At this end time the Lord is going to bring forth the new man. The Lord today is going to raise up His believers throughout all the world, in so

many countries, to seek after Him. When we seek after Him, we will see that what He wants is such a new man.

If we have all seen the vision of the new man and have seen that all the churches are not merely individual local churches but the one new man, we will be willing to say, "Lord, I want to receive grace and mercy with all the saints as the one new man, taking You as the person in all of us." If you take Christ in this way as the person of this corporate new man, you will not decide anything in your life by yourself....Since you are a part of the new man, your decisions and your living should not be yours; they should be the decisions and the living of the corporate new man.

The church is the one new man with Christ as his person. Whenever the brothers and sisters are about to speak something, they do not take themselves as the person; instead, they allow Christ to be the person. You let Christ be your person when you speak, and I let Christ be my person when I speak. Eventually, everyone speaks the same thing.

Consider the Bible. The Old and New Testaments contain sixty-six books written by more than forty different authors in many different places over a period of fifteen or sixteen hundred years. The first book, Genesis, was written about 1500 B.C., while the last book, Revelation, was written after A.D. 90. Do they all have one mouth? Do they all speak the same thing? The entire Bible has one mouth and speaks the same thing, even though it was written over a long period of time by many different people in many different places.... Although we are many and we come from many places, all of us have one mouth, and we all speak the same thing.

Application to the new ones

New saints, please recognize the church is the universal one new man and the local churches are parts of it. Last year, Church in Kobe visited local churches in the U.S., Taiwan, Mainland China, Korea, Israel, Philippines, India, and New Zealand, and enjoyed attending the conferences and blendings. Moreover, we accepted visiting of saints from churches of various countries every month. Such blending experiences helps us greatly to become conscious of the one new man and to speak one thing. Every local churches should maintain the fellowship not only with the churches of their own country but also with those of other countries. In the last year end, a sister who attended the crystallization-study of Deuteronomy at Anaheim in US, also shared what they studied in the New Year Day meeting of Church in Kobe. We speak the same thing everywhere.

A secret of a local church to be blessed is to open themselves to the other local churches in the whole earth, to the one new man. Having such idea, please learn to build up with brothers and sisters in your district, to have fellowship with brothers and sisters in other district, to maintain oneness, and to come out of your own personal world. Then your district will be blessed, your local church will be blessed, and yourself will be blessed.

Prayer: "O Lord, Jesus, a local church is not the entire one new man, but a part of the one new man. So we should be open to fellowship with every church in the world. We will follow the flow of international conferences which are held seven times a year, and we speak the same thing. I also have good

fellowship with the brothers and sisters, especially spiritually burning ones, in the other district of the same local church, so that I can be burning in spirit to serve the Lord. We can advance if we practice church life in the consciousness of the one new man.”

Crucial Point(3): The church is the one new man with only one person—Christ—and this person controls our speaking(III D-F,IV)

OL1: Although we are many and come from many places, we all have one mouth and we all speak the same thing; this is because we all are the one new man having only one person.

OL2: We all need to rise up to take Christ as our corporate person. If we want to make a decision or live a certain kind of life, we cannot decide merely in ourselves; instead, we must take Christ as our person in the new man and with the new man.

In the past you had too many mouths because you had too many persons. When there are many persons, there are many ideas; when there are many ideas, there are many opinions, but we thank the Lord that now there is one mouth and one person here. There are no policemen here; each of us is absolutely free, but on the other hand, you have absolutely no freedom because within you there is another person. You may be about to speak, but something “pinches” you from within, telling you not to say anything. All you can say is, “Thank the Lord!” When you want to speak again, the Lord pinches you again, so you simply say Amen!

Today due to all the technological advances in transportation and communication, which are making progress monthly and even daily, all the peoples of the adamic race on the entire earth have almost become one.... When America comes out with something new, Hong Kong and Japan get it immediately. This is the universal old man. The adamic race today has become the universal old man. All the components of this old man are the same in their corruption, evil, filthiness, fornication, and disorderliness.

The Lord’s desire is to have the one new man on the earth, so we all need to rise up to take Christ as our corporate person. If we want to make a decision or live a certain kind of life, we cannot decide merely in ourselves; instead, we must take Christ as our person in the new man and with the new man. This requirement is great and high. In this way the new man grows and matures, and we will arrive at a full-grown man.

Application to young people and college students

At the end of last year, four undergraduate brothers and sisters were able to join the crystallization study of Deuteronomy with a full-time service sister. Praise the Lord. The training meeting was attended by 5,000 brothers and sisters from all over world. After this, the 12 messages of Deuteronomy are compiled into The Holy Word for Morning Revival and translated into various languages. And the same Bible is read at almost the same time throughout the land and told the same thing. It is to carry out the church life of one new man.

I think the students who participated this time have grown a little in terms of using English. The biggest

barrier to the emergence of a new man is cultural separation, and a large part of the cultural barrier is language. Being able to communicate with brothers and sisters overseas in English can help you overcome barriers. Young people from now on, please learn English and Chinese. It would be great if you could learn Korean etc. Recently, four members of a family from Nigeria, Africa, came into the church life. English-speaking brothers and sisters function well in the fellowship with the family. In order to carry out a church life with a sense of one new man, we need not only Chinese and Korean brothers and sisters, but also brothers and sisters from Africa.

In addition, train to have a sense of one new man, open to brothers and sisters and your partner who are guiding you, and fellowship with an open mind on a zero basis. The brothers and sisters who are leading you are learning in the Lord through so many mistakes that they can give you good advice. If you can open your heart and put down your ideas, you will be blessed. A person who has a sense of a new man never decides anything alone.

A Brother’s testimony: When I was in my fourth year of college, I was considering getting a job after graduation, but I changed to go on to higher education through fellowship with a brothers who are a professor and brothers and sisters who are seniors at the university. At that time, there was a fellowship of “The graduate school of Kobe Women’s Pharmaceutical University is co-educational, so why not consider it?” When I heard about it, it made me very uncomfortable. I thought, “Why am I being recommended to a women’s college? Am I being fooled?” But I repented in the light of the Lord. If I do not repent, I will not be able to communicate with an open mind, and I will not be able to communicate. In the end, I decided to go to another university instead of a women’s college, but this experience helped me to fellowship with an open mind. Thank you for training with the Lord’s environmental arrangements.

Prayer: “O Lord Jesus, there is one mouth and one person in the church life of one new man. We all come out of a cultural background, enter into Christ, keep the oneness, and bring forth a one new man. For this reason, I hope that we can learn English and Chinese (Japanese and English for Chinese students) when we are young. Amen!”

The Mystery of Human Life(2):

The Miserable Situation of Human: “Depressed”

- A.** “But a broken spirit dries up the bones.” (Prov. 17:22b)
- B.** “Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God;” (Psa. 42:11)
- C.** “Release those who are oppressed (break in pieces).” (Luke 4:18 FN7)
- D.** “Always rejoice, Unceasingly pray, In everything give thanks.” —God wants us to live a rejoicing, praying, and thanking life. Such a life is a glory to God and a shame to His enemy. (1 Thes. 5:16-18a FN2)