

<p>I. The direction of the Lord's move today is to prepare the bride as the counterpart of the Bridegroom for the eternal marriage of the redeeming God with His redeemed. <u>John 3:29</u> He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.</p> <p><u>Rev. 19:7</u> Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. <u>8</u> And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints. <u>9</u> And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God. <u>21:2</u> And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.</p>	
<p>II. The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy, which is to obtain for Christ a bride, the church, through His judicial redemption and by His organic salvation in His divine life.</p> <p><u>Rom. 5:10</u> And not only so, but also boasting in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.</p>	
<p>III. The Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride, who is composed of all His overcomers:</p> <p><u>Rom. 8:37</u> But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.</p>	<p>A. All the overcomers will be the New Jerusalem, as the bride of Christ for one thousand years, in its initial and fresh stage.</p>
	<p>B. Eventually, all the believers will join the overcomers to consummate and complete the New Jerusalem in full as the wife of Christ in the new heaven and new earth for eternity.</p>
<p>IV. The readiness of the bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers:</p> <p><u>Eph. 4:13</u> Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,</p>	<p>A. In the maturity of the divine life, the lover of Christ becomes the Shulammitte, signifying that she has become the reproduction and duplication of Christ to match Him for their marriage. <u>Rev. 21:9</u> And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.</p>
	<p>B. In the New Testament the word mature is used to refer to the believers' being full-grown and perfected in the life of God, indicating that we need to grow and mature unto perfection in the divine life.</p>
	<p>C. We need to continue to grow until we are matured in the divine life to become a full-grown man, arriving at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.</p>
	<p>D. We need to learn of the apostle Paul to pursue the growth and maturity in the life of Christ.</p> <p><u>Col. 1:28</u> Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;</p>
	<p>E. A mature believer knows the Body, cares for the Body, and honors the Body, being Body-conscious and Body-centered.</p>
<p>V. The overcomers who constitute the bride are not separate individuals but a corporate bride; for this aspect of the bride, building is needed:</p>	<p>A. The overcomers are not only mature in life but also built together as one bride.</p>
	<p>B. The central and divine thought of the Scriptures is that God is seeking a divine building as the mingling of Himself with humanity; He is seeking a living composition of living persons redeemed by and mingled with Himself.</p> <p><u>John 14:20</u> In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.</p>
	<p>C. The principle of God's building is that God builds Himself into man and builds man into Himself; God mingling with man is God building Himself into man, and man mingling with God is man being built into God.</p>
	<p>D. God's building is the corporate expression of the Triune God. <u>John 17:22</u> And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;</p>
	<p>E. To be built up with fellow believers is the Lord's supreme and highest requirement of His faithful seekers according to one of the divine attributes.</p>

<p>VI. As the bride, the counterpart of the Bridegroom, the church needs beauty: <u>S. S. 1:15</u> Oh, you are beautiful, my love! Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves. <u>4:7</u> You are altogether beautiful, my love, And there is no blemish in you.</p>	<p>A. “Your eyes will see the King in His beauty”; “the King will desire your beauty”. <u>Isa. 33:17</u> Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; ...</p>	
	<p>B. In the corporate constitution of the Body of Christ, there is much beauty, excellency, and virtue.</p>	
	<p>C. The virtues manifested by us Christians should be the manifestation of the glory and beauty in the divine attributes; a Christian is one who has divinity as his element and reality, from which the divine glory and beauty are expressed through the human virtues. <u>Phil. 1:20</u> According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. <u>21</u> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.</p>	
	<p>D. The beauty of the bride is for the presentation of the bride to Christ as the Bridegroom:</p>	<p>1. The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church.</p>
<p>3. What Christ appreciates in us is the expression of Himself.</p>		
<p>VII. According to Revelation 19:11-21, Christ will come as the fighting General with His bride, the overcoming believers who are His army, to fight against Antichrist, the kings under him, and their armies at Armageddon: <u>The War at Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-21)</u>: a. <u>Christ Coming to Tread the Great Winepress (11-16)</u>: <u>Rev. 19: 11</u> And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <u>12</u> And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself. <u>13</u> And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. <u>14</u> And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <u>15</u> And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <u>16</u> And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, King Of KINGS And Lord Of LORDS. b. <u>A Great Dinner (17-18)</u>: <u>17</u> And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God, <u>18</u> That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great. c. <u>The Defeat and Perdition of Antichrist and the False Prophet (19-21)</u>: <u>19</u> And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army. <u>20</u> And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. <u>21</u> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.</p>		
<p>A. When Christ comes with His army to fight against Antichrist and his armies, He will come as the Son of Man, and as the Son of Man, He will need a counterpart, His bride, to match and complete Him.</p>		
<p>B. Before His coming back, Christ will have a wedding, uniting His overcomers to Himself as one entity:</p>	<p>1. Christ will marry the one who has been fighting the battle against God’s enemy for years. <u>Eph. 6:11</u> Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, <u>12</u> For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. <u>13</u> Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.</p>	<p>2. In Revelation 19 Christ will marry the overcomers, who have already overcome the evil one.</p>
<p>C. After His wedding Christ will come with His bride to destroy Antichrist.</p>		
<p>D. The wedding garment—Christ lived out of us as our subjective righteousness— qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join in the army to fight with Christ against Antichrist in the ultimate war—the war at Armageddon. <u>Rev. 19:8</u> And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.</p>		

Experience:

① What God wants is the New Jerusalem, which will be the totality of what the overcomers are. Eventually, all the overcomers will be the New Jerusalem, as the bride of Christ for one thousand years, in its initial and fresh stage. These one thousand years will be counted as one day, the wedding day. This will be the initial and fresh stage of the New Jerusalem as the bride of Christ. The overcomers will also be the New Jerusalem as the present Paradise of God in the millennial kingdom. This bride will be the Paradise of God. The three things are one: the bride, the city, and the Paradise of God. Eventually, the New Jerusalem will be consummated and completed in full, as the tabernacle of God and the wife of Christ in the new heaven and new earth for eternity. In the kingdom of one thousand years, the New Jerusalem will be composed only of the overcomers. Besides the overcomers there will be a great number of immature saints, but after the thousand-year kingdom, all the believers will be matured. The Lord has a way to cause all the believers to be matured. If we do not get matured in this age, we will be matured in the next age. The process of being matured in the next age, however, will be very severe. Eventually, all of the believers will join the overcomers to make the New Jerusalem larger than it was in the thousand-year kingdom. That will consummate and complete the New Jerusalem in full, as the tabernacle of God and the wife of Christ in the new heaven and new earth for eternity.

Business life model: Important human relationships are, first of all, the relationship of the couple, then parent-child relationship, and the relationship with the superior at work. In business life you need to learn to serve your superior correctly. In the Ephesians Paul had said the following: “6 Not with eye-service as men-pleasers but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the soul; 7 With good will serving as slaves, as serving the Lord and not men; 8 Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or a free man” (Eph. 6:6-8).

In the church services, those who are claiming for their natural opinions will not be useful to the Lord Jesus. The principle is the same for work. It is OK to discuss before the superior decides, but once the decision is made, it is necessary to follow that policy obediently. Paul had said that one should serve the Lord Jesus as a slave would serve his master. So in obeying and serving your superior, you need to experience and express Christ. If you are not carrying it out this way, you must repent and start carrying it out today. Even though it can be difficult, the important thing is to always

remember that "today is easier than tomorrow." No matter how difficult it is to make the change today, it would be much easier than the disciplining in the darkness a thousand years. Amen!

② There are many thousands of Christians on this earth. How then can so many be just one expression of God? The answer is in God's building! We must have the building. I do not have words to express what is on my heart concerning this matter. There is a vision open to me continuously day and night. First, on the negative side, it is impossible for any single individual to express God in a full way; then, on the positive side, the proper and adequate expression of God must be a coordinated, corporate expression. Remember, God's desire and purpose is that He be expressed and represented through man on this earth. But this is possible only when we are being mutually coordinated and built up together.

Incumbent youth model: God's goal is to build up the body of Christ, prepare the corporate bride of Christ. God saved you not for the creation of many single individuals who may love the Lord, but to build up a corporate bride. Even when you are living a church life, if you have your own goal apart from God's goal secretly, you will lose the blessings of the Lord. The individual can neither fully express God, nor can it be a bride to satisfy Christ. Unmarried incumbent young people need to get a spouse and build a marriage life. A single family cannot be the Body of Christ, needs to open up to the brothers and sisters, who are guiding, receive their help and move forward in the fellowship of the Body of Christ.

In the Ephesians Paul had said the following, “11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, 12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ, 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” (Eph. 4:11-12, 15-16). It is the gifted ones, the joints in the body that are perfecting you. You need to be connected with the advancing members in the church, open yourself and fellowship with them on various practical problems in marriage, business life, and church life. Through such fellowship you can be perfected. Through this fellowship, you can deal with your feelings, individualism, peculiarities that are not matching with the building-up. Once you are advancing on the course of building-up, your church life will match the direction of the Lord's move, you will grow and be greatly blessed. Hallelujah!

606 召会 — その建造

1. 自己、てん然を捨て、けんぞうされて、
ともにみやとなり、えいこう満たす。
たかぶり、たんどく、とく異せいを捨て、
主の権威にふくし、主の住まいとなる。
2. せい長し、変えられ、供給し、建造され、
機のを果たして、ひとをしよう就す。
自分にぞくすもの、たかくひょう価せず、
すべてかたよらず、きん衡をたもつ。
3. かしらにつながり、主の豊富、享受す；
かみ増しくわわり、円じゅくにいたる。
主のあいを知って、かん全にせい長し、
キリストの豊満の身のたけとなる。
4. み住まい、からだに、けんぞうされて、
主のうつわとなり、えい光あらわす。
はなよめ、みやこは、いまや地上にあり、
なが栄こう照らし、ひとにかがやく。

606 召会—建造

1. 救我脱离自己、天然、主阿、我愿被建造、
同众圣徒作你圣殿、为着充满你荣耀。
救我脱离乖僻个性、脱离骄傲与单独；
使我甘愿服你权柄、让你有家可居住。
2. 生命供应、活水流通、长进、变化又配搭；
守住等次、尽我功用、成全别人、不践踏。
自己所经、自己所见、所是、所有并所能、
不再高估、不再稍偏、接受一切的平衡。
3. 持定元首、联络供应、享受基督的丰富；
充满神的一切丰盛、因神增加得成熟、
同尝基督莫测大爱、赏识基督的阔长；
长大成人、不作婴孩、满有基督的身量。
4. 作神居所、作你身体、主阿、我愿被建造、
成为你的团体大器、让你来显你荣耀。
圣城景色、新妇荣美、今在此地就彰显、
透出你的荣耀光辉、将你照耀在人间。

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,
Buildd 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.
4. By Thy Spirit daily strengthened
In the inner man with might,
I would know Thy love surpassing,
Know Thy breath and length and height;
Ever of Thy riches taking,
Unto all Thy fulness filled,
Ever growing into manhood,
That Thy Body Thou may build.
5. In God's house and in Thy Body
Buildd up I long to be,
That within this corporate vessel
All shall then Thy glory see;
That Thy Bride, the glorious city,
May appear upon the earth,
As a lampstand brightly beaming
To express to all Thy worth.