

THE GOAL OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY—TO BRING FORTH THE ONE NEW MAN ONE NEW MAN #3: Growing Up into Christ in All Things and Learning Christ as the Reality Is in Jesus for the Corporate Living of the One New Man (Summary)

I. For the corporate living of the one new man, we need to grow up into Christ in all things:

- a) To grow up into Christ is to have Christ increase in us in all things until we arrive at a full-grown man—
[Eph.4:15](#) But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- b) We all need to grow up into Christ in all things, that is, in every single thing, whether big or small. There are still many things in which we have not grown up into Christ; in these things we are not in Christ but are outside of Christ. The growth into Christ in verse 15 equals the putting on of the new man in verse 24. The full-grown man in verse 13 refers to the one new man in verse 24, who has become full-grown.
[Eph.4:13](#) 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, [14](#) That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error, [15](#) But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, [24](#) And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- c) Ephesians 4 speaks of the perfecting of the new man through the growth of life; the one new man created by Christ must be perfected in order to function: In Ephesians 2:15 we see the creation of the new man organically; in 4:13–16 we see the perfecting of the new man in relation to his function.
[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,
- d) The one new man can become perfect in relation to his function only through receiving the proper nourishment; this is one of the deepest concepts in the book of Ephesians. We need to fulfill our responsibility to perfect the one new man through nourishing and cherishing. The more the one new man grows through receiving the proper nourishment, the more he will function normally.
[Eph.5:29](#) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,
- e) For the growth of the corporate new man, we need to experience the crucified, resurrected, ascended, and descending Christ so that the all-inclusive Christ is wrought into us to be our everything; then the organically perfect new man will become perfect functionally.

II. For the corporate living of the one new man, we need to learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus:

- a) In verse 20 Paul speaks of learning Christ: Christ is not only life to us but also an example; in His life on earth the Lord Jesus set up a pattern, a mold. To be saved is to be put into Christ by God. By means of baptism God put us into Christ, who is the pattern; to be baptized is to be placed into Christ as the mold. By being placed into the mold, we have put off the old man and have put on the new man. To learn Christ is to be put into Christ as the mold; it is to be molded into the pattern set up by Him during His years on earth.
- b) The expression the reality is in Jesus refers to the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels; the life of Jesus was a life of reality. In verses 17 and 21 we see a contrast between the vanity of the mind and the reality in Jesus. Reality is the shining of light; light is the source, and reality is the expression. The Lord Jesus is the shining of God, who is light. Because in every aspect of the Lord's living on earth there was the shining of light, His life was a life of reality, a life of the shining God Himself; that life of reality was the expression of God.
[Eph.4:17](#) This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind, [John 8:12](#) Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- c) The living of the one new man should be exactly the same as the living of Jesus. The way that the Lord Jesus lived on earth is the way that the new man should live today. Our standard of living must be according to the reality in Jesus. He was one with God, and He lived a life in which He did everything in God, with God, and for God. The human living of Jesus was according to the reality, that is, according to God Himself, full of righteousness and holiness. We need to learn Christ and be taught in Him to live a life of reality. If we live according to the spirit of our mind, we will have the living of the corporate new man—a living that corresponds to the reality in Jesus. [Mat.11:28](#) Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest. [29](#) Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30](#) For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. [John 5:30](#) I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. [6:38](#) For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- d) The church life is the daily walk of the corporate one new man, a walk that is absolutely new in nature and in manner; everything related to the one new man is new.
[Eph.4:24](#) And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality. [25](#) Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. [26](#) Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation, [27](#) Neither give place to the devil. [28](#) He who steals should steal no more, but rather should labor, working with his own hands in that which is respectable, that he may have something to share with him who has need.
Application: The life of putting off the old man and putting on the new man is the life that does not lie but tell the truth. The life of the old man unconsciously tells the small lies. For example, although the real situation is the evil thing, but you try to hide that evil motivation by telling something superficial to look good. Also the life of the old man keeps people in anger once they get offended. When you remain in the anger, the devil gets you. Moreover we should work properly with our own hands and should not steal. If you tell the other's success as your own, it is a kind of stealing. What you have done might be only a quarter, but if you tell that you did more than a half, that is a stealing of others' achievement. There is stealing nature in the old man. We need to put off the old man and put on the new man and learn Christ as the reality and need to be saved from lying, remaining in anger and stealing.

Experience ① : Develop the spiritual functions through the school life

At birth, an infant is perfect organically; that is, the infant has all the necessary organs. However, a child is not functionally perfect at birth....In order to develop properly and to function normally, every child needs to be nourished and cherished. This principle also applies to the church as the new man. In Ephesians 2:15 we see the creation of the new man organically, but in 4:13-16 we see the perfecting of the new man in relation to his function.

Ephesians 4:16 is an extremely important verse....Our growth in life is to grow into the Head, Christ, but our function in the Body is to function out from Him. The phrase each one part refers to every member of the Body. Every member of the Body of Christ has its own measure which works for the growth of the Body. The Body causes the growth of itself through the supplying joints and working parts. The growth of the Body is the increase of Christ in the church, which results in the building up of the Body itself.

For Junior and Senior High Students

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.

When you were saved, you were born of God, so you now have organs that are spiritually necessary. However, for those organs to function well, they need to grow up and to be trained. For example, a one-year-old baby has two legs but in order for his legs to fulfill their function, there is a need for a training. He needs to grow up by drinking milk and go through their trainings of rolling over in bed and crawling. And then he progresses to walk along bars and then walk normally, and eventually he will be able to run. Finally at this stage, the functions of his legs become fulfilled. Your spiritual functions are, to call on the Lord's name, to pray-read the Word, and to eat and drink the Lord. Then you pray for your study and your school life. In addition, you pray for salvation of your friends and preach the gospel. You cherish and nourish six kinds of new ones. And there are also functions including various kinds of services in the Lord's table meeting, the service to prepare lunch for Lord's day, and prophesying God's word to people in the Lord's day meeting to supply them. So you need to grow up little by little in those functions such as eating and drinking the Lord, praying, gospel-preaching, cherishing and nourishing the new ones. There is no need to hurry but you need to step forward little by little.

At your semi-semester test in the past, you have only studied very hard for yourself. However, after you have been saved, you need to train yourself to study by setting your mind on your spirit while praying for your test. A little while later, you start to pray for other brothers and sisters who are in the meeting with you. This is one step of growth. After that, the Lord may speak to you to pray for your friends. In response, you may pray, "O Lord Jesus! Save my friends!" Then you will have a burden to preach the gospel and tell your friends about the Lord. This is the development of the spiritual functions.

Experience ② : Set your mind on the spirit, carry out the life of learning Christ according to the reality which is in Jesus

The truth, the reality, in Jesus in Ephesians 4:21 is in contrast to the vanity of the mind in verse 17. The nations walk in the vanity of their mind, but we believers live a life as the truth is in Jesus. When the Lord Jesus was living on earth, He never walked in vanity. Rather, He always walked in truth, that is, in the shining of the divine light. This means that the Lord Jesus lived and walked in the expression of God. We have learned Christ according to this very truth that is in Jesus.

In His thirty-three and a half years on earth, the Lord Jesus formed the mold, the pattern, to which all those who believe in Him are to be conformed. According to the record of the four Gospels, the life of the Lord Jesus was a life of reality. Reality is the shining of light. Light is the source, and reality is its expression. As Hebrews 1:3 says, the Lord Jesus is the effulgence of God's glory. This means that He is the shining of God who is light. Because in every aspect of the Lord's living on earth there was the shining of God Himself. That life of reality was the expression of God. For this reason, Paul says that we learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus. In other words, we learn Christ according to the mold of the life of Jesus, which is the reality.

For young working saints

Eph. 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind, **18** Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; **19** Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness. **20** But you did not so learn Christ, **21** If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus, **24** And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

The vanity of the mind of the Gentiles is about making money and living a stable life, preferably living in fine houses and having luxurious life, high positions and receiving praises from people, positions to manage people and so forth. They think like this because their hearts are hardened against God, their understanding is darkened. Walking in vanity with such minds will make you insensitive to sins and defilements. As a result, once you make money with high position, you will become indulged in the pleasure of sin, betray your wife with reasons such as incompatibility, and divorce her (the reason is actually the lust), become arrogant and are avoided by others.

You need to turn from "the vanity of the mind" to "the spirit of the mind". In business life, all the Gentiles are walking in "the vanity of the mind". In the world, you need to have a testimony that is different from the Gentiles. For that reason, you as a Christian should be changed from within. Carry out the following three matters for setting your mind on the spirit and learn Christ.

- i. **Spirit becomes the strongest part of your existence:** You have three parts; spirit, soul and body. **1 Tim. 4:7** But the profane and old-womanish myths refuse, and exercise yourself unto godliness. **8** For bodily exercise is profitable for a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the present life and of that which is to come. **9** Faithful is the word and worthy of all acceptance. There is the need to train your spirit and gain spiritual muscles just like the way you train your body and build your muscles. The important thing for this is to train your spirit little by little every day. The most important habit is to train your spirit through carrying out the revival every morning. If your spirit is weaker than your soul, you cannot set your mind on the spirit as the next step. Because setting your mind on the spirit means that you mind depends on your spirit.
- ii. **Set your mind on the spirit at work:** When you go to work, without setting your mind on the spirit, you actually leave Christ at home or the meeting hall ending up going to work without Christ (This does not mean that Christ is not dwelling in you). When thinking about the members of your project at work, train to set your mind on the spirit and think together with the Lord. This is by no means a difficult thing. The more you train yourself, the more you will be able to do it. When pursuing your project in an actual way like this, God's blessing and effulgence will be with you. **Heb. 1:3** Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance....
- iii. **Learn Christ and be taught in Him and live a life of reality (opposite to vanity):** You were put into a mold named Christ. There is reality in the life of Christ. Read the Four Gospels, use your spirit and learn Christ by setting your mind on the spirit in your business life daily. It is the manifestation of learning Christ when you put off the old man and put on the new man.