

#1 God's Eternal Purpose and the One New Man

(The One New Man Fulfilling God's Purpose in Creating Man) 2019/11/11-17

I. The eternal purpose—the purpose of the ages—is the eternal plan that God made in eternity past:

A. The purpose of God in the universe is to produce a group of people who will be exactly the same as He is; this is the unique subject of the Bible:

1. In life, nature, image, appearance, radiance, glory, and outward expression, they will be the same as God.

2. God's purpose is accomplished by the divine life dispensed into His chosen and redeemed people; as God's life is wrought into His people, a metabolic reaction takes place within them that causes them to be transformed and become the same as God.

B. Man is a great word in the Bible:

1. God's intention is with man, God's thought is focused on man, and God's heart is set upon man.

2. It is man who fulfills God's plan, it is man who expresses God, it is man who defeats God's enemy, and it is man who brings the kingdom of God into the human race.

3. Man is the means of God's manifestation, man is the means of God's move, and man is the means of God's administration.

Ezek. 1:5 And from the midst of it there came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man. **26** And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

C. The eternal purpose of God is to have a corporate man to express Him and represent Him; this was God's purpose in creating man. **Mon**

II. "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Gen. 1:26):

A. In the Bible there is a mysterious thought concerning the relationship between God and man:

1. God's desire is to become the same as man is and to make man the same as He is.

2. God's intention is to work Himself in Christ into us, making Himself the same as we are and making us the same as He is.

B. Let Us make man reveals that a council was held among the three of the Godhead regarding the creation of man:

1. The decision to create man was made in eternity past, indicating that the creation of man was for the eternal purpose of the Triune God.

2. God's intention in creating man was to carry out His divine economy for the dispensing of Himself into man.

C. God created man in His own image, according to His likeness:

1. God's image, referring to God's inner being, is the expression of the inward essence of God's attributes, the most prominent of which are love, light, holiness, and righteousness.

2. God's likeness, referring to God's form, is the expression of the essence and nature of God's person.

3. God created man to be a duplication of Himself so that man may have the capacity to contain God and express Him.

D. God created man in His image and according to His likeness because His intention is to come into man and to be

one with man.

E. God created man in His own image so that through His economy man may receive His life and nature and thereby become His expression:

1. Because we were created according to God's kind, our human virtues have the capacity to contain the divine attributes.

2. For God to create man in His image means that God created man with the intention that man would become a duplicate of God, the reproduction of God, for His corporate expression; this reproduction makes God happy because it looks like Him, speaks like Him, and lives like Him.

Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers; **Tue**

III. "Let them have dominion...Fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion" (Gen. 1:26):

A. God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God:

1. The creeping things that creep upon the earth typify Satan, the serpent, and his angels, as well as the demons, who follow Satan.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I have given you the authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. **Wed**

2. Subdue in Genesis 1:28 implies that a war is raging on earth between God and His enemy, Satan; whoever gains the earth will have the victory.

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it...

3. God has a problem, and this problem is Satan, the archangel who rebelled against God and became His enemy in the universe and especially on the earth:

a. In order to subdue His enemy and thus solve His problem, God gave man authority to rule over all things created by God.

b. Man especially must rule over the earth and even subdue the earth because the earth has been usurped by God's rebellious enemy.

4. God needs man to exercise His authority over all the creeping things, and God needs man to subdue and conquer the rebellious earth so that God may recover the earth for His kingdom.

Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

B. God's intention in giving man dominion is to recover the earth: **1.** God created man with the intention of recovering the earth for Himself.

2. Man was created by God to have dominion over the earth, to subdue it, to conquer it, and thereby recover the earth for God.

3. God wants to regain the earth; the earth has become a crucial place, a place that Satan wants to hold and a place that God wants to regain.

C. God's intention in giving man dominion is for him to exercise God's authority over the earth in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth, the will of God may be done on the earth, and the glory of God may be manifested on the earth. **Thu**

IV. The church as the one new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold

purpose of bearing God's image to express Him and of fighting against God's enemy for God's kingdom:

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.

A. The Bible reveals that the one new man is not an individual but a corporate, universal man:

1. The new man is a corporate God-man:

a. The first God-man, the firstborn Son of God, is the Head of this corporate God-man—the new man.

b. The many God-men, the many sons of God, are the Body of this corporate God-man—the new man.

2. We, the believers in Christ, are all one with Christ to be the new man; we all are parts of the one new man:

a. There are many believers and many local churches, but there is only one new man in the universe.

b. All the believers are components of this one corporate and universal new man. **Fr**

B. The one new man is a warrior fighting against God's enemy:

Eph. 6:10-12 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, 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 heavens.

1. The warrior is not a status of the church but an aspect of the church as the new man.

2. The church as the corporate new man is the warrior, and the believers together make up this new man.

3. We must fight the spiritual warfare not individually but in the Body, in the one new man. **Sat**

Crucial Point(1): Man manifests God's glory

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

OL1: God created man in His own image so that through His economy man may receive His life and nature and thereby become His expression.

OL2: Because we were created according to God's kind, our human virtues have the capacity to contain the divine attributes.

OL3: For God to create man in His image means that God created man with the intention that man would become a duplicate of God, the reproduction of God, for His corporate expression; this reproduction makes God happy because it looks like Him, speaks like Him, and lives like Him.

Man was created in God's image in order to be God's expression. God is the center of the universe, but He needs an expression, and this expression is through man.... The millions of angels cannot be the expression of God. God needs a corporate man to express Him. You should never despise the fact that you are a man.

We may talk about the church as the expression of Christ, but we may not realize what the expression of Christ is. The Christ whom the church must express is

the man upon the throne. If we would express Christ, we need to realize Christ today is still a man. We do not express merely God; we express God in a man. The church is the expression of Christ. This means that the church is an expression not merely of God but also of a man.

The vision in Ezekiel 1 reveals three crucial matters concerning the four living creatures' bearing the appearance of a man. First, God's glory is manifested upon them. The manifestation of God's glory depends upon their having the appearance of a man. Where they are, there God's glory is. God's glory is not separate from them, and apart from them God's glory cannot be manifested. Second, these living creatures are the means of God's move. God's move depends on them. When they move, God will move, for His move is with them. Third, the four living creatures, who bear the appearance of a man, are the means of God's administration. Ezekiel 1 reveals that God is sitting on the throne. God's throne dominates everything on earth and everything recorded in this book. This throne, therefore, is the center of God's administration. However, the center of God's administration depends on the four living creatures having the appearance of a man. Because of this, there is the administration of God's throne. If we put these three things together, we will see that man is the means of God's manifestation, that man is the means of God's move, and that man is the means of God's administration. In God's eyes and in God's hands, man has such an important position.

Application to young people and college students

From the viewpoint of the vision of God's economy, we see that the man is very important. In God's plan, man is the center, the meaning and the V.I.P of the universe. You should tell this as gospel to Japanese young people. God loves man, treasures man and cares for man. Do not underestimate yourself or think you are a person without any significance. That thought is totally wrong. Among the advanced nations, Japan records the highest suicide rate of young people (age 15-34). Also the first cause of death among young people is the suicide. So the church has the responsibility to preach the gospel to the young people.

Do not think "God cannot use you because your grades are not good, even bad". This thought is wrong absolutely. The members of the Body of Christ have various functions and you have your own function. And regardless what kind of member you are, there are three common features. **(1)** You are a man that manifests God's glory, **(2)** God moves on the earth through you, **(3)** God executes His administration through you. Because of these three, you are the center, the meaning, the V.I.P of the universe. So do not be discouraged by seeing yourself. Do not be proud by seeing yourself, either. If you had some merits, there cannot be any greater things than God's glory, God's move and God's administration. You should thank God and boast for these.

For instance, somebody may be a target of bullying

in your class. You can pray for this person and the ones who are bullying and love and care for this person. Many students are afraid of caring for the bullied one because they don't want to become the target. Because God's glory is the manifested God, if you love this person with the love of God, you will have God's glory on your being. It is even more wonderful if you can preach the gospel to this person. God can go out to move with man and execute His administration. God's administration is the arrangements to dispense God. To execute God's administration is to dispense the riches of Christ as the gospel.

Oh, I'm a man! I'm the meaning of the universe!

Yes, I'm a man! I'm the meaning of the universe!

God made me such, I am so much!

I'm the center and the meaning of the universe!

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, thank You that I am very important in God's eyes. Because through me as a man, God can express glory, can move and can execute God's administration. So I would not despise myself. I as well as my friends, are the center and the meaning and the V.I.P of the universe. Hallelujah! Let me preach this gospel to my friends!"

Crucial Point(2): In the cooperate life, return to the spirit and pray, fight against Satan, rule over Satan, and recover the earth

OL1: God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God.

OL2: Man was created by God to have dominion over the earth, to subdue it, to conquer it, and thereby recover the earth for God.

OL3: God wants to regain the earth; the earth has become a crucial place, a place that Satan wants to hold and a place that God wants to regain.

The first aspect of God's intention [in giving man dominion] is to deal with His enemy,....Satan, typified by the creeping things. In the Bible, the creeping things are demonic, devilish, and Satanic....Satan is typified by the serpent. In Revelation 12:9 Satan is called the "ancient serpent."

We need to express God and to deal with Satan in our home life.... I have learned this by experience. Sometimes, when I saw Satan expressed in the members of my family, I did not say a word. I went to my bedroom, knelt down, and prayed, "Lord, bind the serpent." A number of times I realized that I myself was expressing the serpent. Again I ran away to pray, "O Lord, forgive me. Bind the serpent." On many occasions, the divine authority of God is not exercised. The evil power of Satan is expressed instead.... We all must realize that today God has this double goal to accomplish—to express Himself and to deal with His enemy. It is not really your husband who loses his temper. It is the serpent. It is not really your wife who says something to provoke your temper. It is the serpent. Do not deal with the husband and do not deal with the wife. It is not their fault. We must deal with the serpent that is behind them. Exchanging words can never deal with Satan. The more we argue, the more Satan gains ground. The only way to deal with Satan is to go on our knees, pray, call on the name of Jesus, and ask Him to bind the serpent.

The second aspect of God's intention in giving man

dominion is to recover the earth. Man is to have dominion over the earth, to subdue it, and to conquer it. To conquer the earth means that the enemy is there already, that a war is raging. Therefore, we must fight and conquer.

The young people who are preparing to enter into marriage must realize that marriage is a battle. Many of us know this by experience. Even when we were on our honeymoon, we were on the battlefield, fighting with our husband or wife. If we did not fight outwardly, we fought inwardly. Every area of life—school life, work life, family life—is a battlefield. The enemy never sleeps. All day long he is on the alert, not only in the family life, but also in the church life. Even in the church life, Satan and all his messengers are busy. On the earth a warfare is raging. God's intention is to recover the earth.

The third aspect of God's intention in giving man dominion is to bring in God's authority, to exercise God's authority over the earth. Man must exercise God's authority in order that the kingdom of God may come to earth, that the will of God may be done on earth, and that the glory of God may be manifested on earth. All of this will be on the earth. God will never be satisfied to have His kingdom only in the heavens. Neither will He be happy to have His will done only in the heavens nor to see His glory expressed only in the heavens. He wants all these things to happen on the earth. This is the responsibility of the church today. In the church we have the kingdom of God. In the church the will of God is done.

Application to the cooperate life, such as business life, marriage life, campus life, and church life

You are a vessel to contain God and to express God. However, in many cases, you fail to express God but express Satan. When you see your partner, your colleague, or even yourself are expressing Satan, you need to realize Satan is actively working behind them or in your flesh. Who makes a person burst out in anger is not him but Satan. In your social life, family life, and every cooperate living, you need to see the work of Satan is very active. Standing against this Satan and the evil spirits become possible only by praying in the spirit and staying in the Body of Christ.

Don't stay in the negative and complex mind that was attacked by Satan, but instead, return to your spirit and pray in the spirit. And also pray with your partner to bind Satan. For example, Satan try to infuse into your mind a thought to hate your spouse by whispering, "My husband is lazy and idle so I should complain," or "My wife is always behaving emotionally." However, in a very real sense, one who cause this discord is Satan. Stay in church life and pray not according to your mind but in your spirit. The spirit of man is a city of refuge where you can flee from Satan's whispering and temptations. If you continue thinking about the words whispered by Satan, you soon become a slave of Satan. You should pray like this; "O Lord Jesus. I should not walk according to the feeling that came up during the conversation with Satan. Staying at the mind attacked by Satan cause me to be a slave of Satan. I return to my spirit, a city of refuge, and pray. I listen to and follow the word of God. I refuse the word of Satan. I pray in the spirit, fight in the name of the Lord, and bind Satan. Amen!"

Crucial Point(3): Fight spiritual warfare with partners

to fulfill God's wishes by faith

OL1: The church as the one new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold purpose of bearing God's image to express Him and of fighting against God's enemy for God's kingdom.

OL2: The one new man is a corporate God-man. All the believers are components of this one corporate and universal new man. We must fight the spiritual warfare not individually but in the Body, in the one new man.

The church as the new man is a warrior fighting against God's enemy, for the new man is now fulfilling God's purpose to express God and to fight against God's enemy for God's dominion, God's kingdom.

Eph. 6:10-12 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, 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.

"Blood and flesh" refers to human beings. Behind men of blood and flesh are the evil forces of the devil, fighting against God's purpose. Hence, our wrestling, our fighting, must not be against men but against the evil spiritual forces in the heavenlies...." This darkness" refers to today's world, which is fully under the dark ruling of the devil through his evil angels. "The world-rulers of this darkness" are the princes Satan has set up to rule the various nations. Because of the working of Satan, who is the authority of darkness, the earth and its atmosphere have become "this darkness." "The spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies" are Satan and his spiritual forces of evil in the air. The warfare between the church and Satan is a battle between us who love the Lord and who are in His church and the evil powers in the heavenlies. We must fight against these spiritual forces.

The new man fights against God's enemy not only by being empowered in the Lord but also by putting on the various attributes of Christ as the whole armor of God. The whole armor of God is for the entire Body, not for any individual member of the Body.

For the young working saints and graduate students

People in the world describe that business life is a warfare by saying, "When you go to the company, there are seven enemies." This is an expression. But this proverb does not indicate whom to fight against and how to fight. But the Bible clearly states that. Rather than fighting those who attack you, fight against Satan who is active and motivated behind people and the evil spirits who are Satan's subordinates. In this battle, it is impossible for you to fight only with your power. Your power and ability are no meaning. Because Satan is much stronger than you. You are empowered in the Lord's abilities and fight in the body of Christ putting on the whole armor of God

Satan will attack you in a way of tricking. And keep you away from the church life or not too deep within.

Because Satan cannot overcome the built church. Satan will also work to bring you back to the mind. Because God's talk is only in the spirit, and Satan cannot attack it by whispering.

For example, Satan will speak "even if you mention God's twofold purpose, in Japan, such Bible stories are not valid for real business life," or "The words of Bible are only a doctrinal issues, and are useless in Japan." or "If you don't do your best by yourself, you'll be fired." Please read the excerpt about the fight for the Israelites to enter good land on p.338 in Numbers Overview (Part A). "If the children of Israel feared God and loved God, they would have known and boldly declared the desire of God's heart, 'The land of Canaan is the land that God has commanded us to get, so God is responsible for us getting that land. We love God so we can enter the land even if we risk our lives.' That would have increased the faith of the Israelites. However, they lost their faith because they kept their own lives and feared death and did not fear God." You should not abandon your faith by the fear of getting fired from the company. You should work diligently in the company and have a good testimony, and never lose faith in fear of being fired. If a problem occurs at the company, pray with the brothers and sisters, fight against Satan to maintain your testimony, and deal with Satan.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, before the Israelites enter Canaan's good land, they saw the Canaan people were great and very strong. To take care of their own safety, they became unbelieving and lost the desire of God. This is a warning to us. Do not be afraid to be fired by your company because of your faith. If we keep our faith and seek for God's desire, God will surely bless our business life. I will learn praying and fighting in spirit with spiritual partners"

The Mystery of Human Life (2)

Our attitude: "Express"

A. "Come and let us return to Jehovah; ... He will heal us, And ... He will bind us up. He will enliven us ... Therefore let us know, let us pursue knowing Jehovah: His going forth is as sure as the dawn, And He will come to us as the rain, As the latter rain which waters the earth." (Hosea 6:1-3)

B. "Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest."—This refers to the toil of struggling to be successful in any work. Whoever toils thus is always heavily burdened....Rest refers not only to being set free from the toil and burden under the law or religion or under any work or responsibility, but also to perfect peace and full satisfaction. (Matt. 11:28, Fn1&2)

C. "Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help."—When we are in a pitiful condition, first God's mercy reaches us and brings us into a situation in which He is able to favor us with His grace....God's mercy reaches farther and bridges the gap between us and God's grace. God's mercy and grace are always available to us. (Heb. 4:16, Fn2)

D. "Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely."—This verse can be considered

a promise of the enjoyment of the tree of life to take the water of life, which is the life-giving Spirit. (Rev. 22:17, Fn1 of 14)

E. “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, And you who have no money; Come, buy and eat; Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And the result of your labor for what does not satisfy? Hear Me attentively, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear and come to Me.” (Isa. 55:1-3)