

#5 Laboring according to God's Operation to Present

Every Believer Full-grown in Christ for the

Function and Consummation of the One New Man

(The One New Man Fulfilling God's Purpose in Creating Man) 2019/12/9-15

Overview: This week is about our service for us to arrive at the new man. I ~ II are the life necessary for such service, III ~ V are saying that by going through our service, we struggle like Paul to supply Christ, to perfect the saints, so their functions (gospel preaching, shepherding, building) can be perfected and consecrated.

I. For the one new man we all need to arrive as "a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ":

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,

A. A full-grown man is a mature man; for this, maturity in life is necessary.

B. The fullness of Christ is the Body of Christ, which has a stature with a measure: **Eph. 1:22-23** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church. Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all. **1.** The fullness of Christ is the expression of Christ; as Christ's fullness, the Body is Christ's expression. **2.** Christ's fullness, the Body, has a stature, and with this stature there is a certain measure; hence, 4:13 speaks of the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. **3.** To arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ is to arrive at the full growth and building up of the Body of Christ; it is to arrive at the full completion of the building up of the Body.

C. To arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ is necessary for the practical oneness—the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of Christ.

D. From the oneness in reality we need to proceed to the oneness in practicality until we arrive at the three things mentioned in verse 13—the oneness, a full-grown man, and the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. **Mon**

II. In order to arrive at a full-grown man for the fulfilling of God's purpose, we need to grow up into Christ in all things:

Eph. 4:14-16 That we may be no longer little children...But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head. 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.

A. To be no longer children, we need to grow up into Christ; this is to have Christ increase in us in all things until we arrive at a full-grown man.

B. Whereas taking Christ as our life is for the increase of the measure of the stature of the Body, taking Christ as our person is for the growth of the one new man:

1. If we take Christ as our person, we will surely take Him as our life. **2.** If we take Christ as our person, we will be able to grow and mature.

C. We all need to grow up into Christ in all things, that is, in every single thing, whether big or small: **1.** 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. **2.**

When we all grow up into Christ in all things, we all will be one in Christ; this is the universal one new man. **Tue**

D. Ephesians 4:15 says that we grow up into the Head; the word Head here indicates that our growth in life by the increase of Christ should be the growth of the members in the Body under the Head. **Eph. 4:15-16** But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head. Out from whom all the Body... causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

E. To grow in life is to grow with the growth of God; this means that true growth is the increase of God, the addition of God: **Col. 2:19** And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God. **1.** God is eternal, perfect, and complete; therefore, with God Himself there can be no growth. **2.** The Body needs to grow with the growth, the increase, of God in us: **a.**

It is necessary for God to grow in us; that is, we all need God to grow, to increase, in us. **b.**

The way to grow spiritually is to have God added to us: **1)** The dispensing of the Triune God into us causes us to grow with the increase of God. **2)**

God entered into us when we were regenerated, and now He is increasing within us by adding more of Himself to us.

3) This is to grow with growth, the increase, of God, by having God added into our being. **c.**

What we absorb of Christ into us—the element of the riches of Christ as the soil—becomes the increase of God in us. **d.**

We need to be permeated and saturated with Christ and to have Christ wrought into our being; then, in reality and practicality,

Christ will be every member, every part, of the one new man. **Wed**

F. Ephesians 4 speaks of the perfecting of the new man through the growth of life: **1.** 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. 4:16 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. **2.**

The organically perfect new man needs to be perfected through the growth of life in order to function in a proper way: **a.**

The more the new man grows through receiving the proper nourishment, the more he will function normally. **b.**

The growth into Christ in verse 15 equals the putting on of the new man in verse 24. **3.**

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. **Eph. 4:8** Therefore the Scripture says, "Having

ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."

G. Growing up into Christ in all things is for the practical existence of the universal one new man. **Thu**

III. For the practical existence of the one new man, we need to labor and struggle to present all the saints full-grown in Christ:

Col. 1:27-29 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory, Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man

in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ; For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.

A. Paul's ministry was to dispense Christ into others so that they would be perfect and complete by maturing in Christ unto full growth.

B. Our goal in preaching the gospel to sinners and in fellowshiping with the saints is to minister Christ into them so that they may mature in Him and be presented full-grown in Him; this is for the growth of the new man.

C. Presenting others full-grown in Christ is a very difficult task; this task can be accomplished only by labor in which we struggle according to the operation of God.

D. What Paul did in struggling to present others full-grown in Christ is an example of laboring to perfect the saints for the building up of the Body of Christ: **Fri**

1. In His recovery the Lord desires to recover the perfecting of all the members of the Body of Christ.

Eph. 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some as apostles...For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ, **16** ...all the Body...causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love. **2.** Paul's thought concerning the perfecting of the saints is that God's intention is to have every believer able to do the things that the gifted persons do. **3.** The Lord wants to recover the perfecting of the saints so that each one part of the Body of Christ may do the work of the ministry by operating in its measure for the building up of the organic Body of Christ.

IV. When the one new man was created in our spirit through regeneration, it was complete as far as organs are concerned; however, because the new man has not yet been completed in function, there is the need for growth and renewing:

A. The growth of the new man results in the function of the new man.

B. As long as the new man is short of growth and renewing, it will be lacking in function.

C. The one new man needs to grow and develop; as a result, the one new man will be perfect in function.

V. The New Jerusalem will be the final consummation of the universal one new man:

A. God's goal is to have the universal one new man, which ultimately will consummate in the New Jerusalem.

B. When we are in the New Jerusalem, we will enjoy the life of the universal one new man.

C. Today we may have a foretaste of the consummation of the one new man by setting our mind on the things above and by giving a free way for the new man in our spirit to spread into our whole being. **Sat**

Crucial Point(1):The experience of growing up into Christ in all things to arrive at the oneness in practicality perfects the believers and is able to make you an excellent manager in your company

OL1: From the oneness in reality we need to proceed to the oneness in practicality until we arrive at the three things mentioned in verse 13—the oneness, a full-grown man, and the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.**OL2:** 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.**OL3:** When we all grow up into Christ in all things, we all will be one in Christ; this is the universal one new man.

According to 4:13, the saints need to be perfected until they arrive at three things: at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, and at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Then we shall be no longer babes tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching. Instead, we shall hold to truth in love so that we may "grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ" (v. 15). The more we grow, the more we shall drop our doctrines. After someone is saved, he needs to have Christ ministered to him as his spiritual food and drink. This will cause him to grow. As he grows, he will gradually lay aside his doctrinal concepts.

[In Ephesians 4:15] all things means every single thing, whether big or small; we must grow up into Christ in all things. Even today there are still many things in which we are not in Christ but are outside of Christ. We need to grow up into Christ in all things, both big and small. You have Christ in you, but there are still many things in you that have not grown up into Christ. This is entirely a matter of the Spirit. To grow up into Christ is to grow up into the Spirit. Your speaking must be in the Spirit; your actions, your adornment, and your attire must all be in the Spirit; your dealings with others, your managing of affairs, and the way you treat people must be in the Spirit. You need to get into the Spirit in all things.

Application to young working saints and graduate students

The young working saints need to specialize their particular field at work and should become the specialist in that field. By around 35 years old, you should decide your own field. And then there are two paths, the path to be a senior specialist who specifies that field, or the path to be a manager who puts the specialists together. Christians are those who reign in life as kings, please seek the path of management if possible around 35 years old. **Rom. 5:17** ...much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

As a Christian, you should grow up into the Head, Christ, in all things of your business life, the big things and small things. For instance, you should grow up into Christ in big things, like changing the job. And also in small things, for instance brothers have to take the packed train every day to go to office. And you need to pray not to fall into temptation since you'll be so close to women in the crowded train. Then sisters may have jealousy over a colleague who got engaged to a man who works in a good company. The sisters then need to put their jealousy onto the cross by calling on the name of the Lord. These are the small things in the daily living. In these small things, you grow up into Christ. Actually you haven't grown up into Christ in many things yet, so grow up in every and each thing.

By the growth like this, you can proceed on from the

oneness in reality to the oneness in practicality. This shows that the growth swallows up human concepts, habits, doctrines that cause difference and enmity and causes everyone into oneness. This experience of attaining the oneness in practicality in the church life will help you greatly to put your team together as a manager. Because this world, under the influence of Satan, has strong tendency of being divided, even a small organization can be scattered into pieces by making various groups. But God gather people together and make them one. If you pray and make Christ your wisdom, you will become a good manager with ability to unify the team

Prayer : "Oh Lord Jesus, I can attain the oneness by growing into the Head, Christ, in all things, big or small. This is related to the team building in the company. Let me stand against Satan's dividing power and make me a manager with ability of making one by being gathered.

Crucial Point(2): For perfecting the one new man, experience dispensing, growing, functioning in the church life

OL1: To grow in life is to grow with the growth of God; this means that true growth is the increase of God, the addition of God. **OL2:** The more the new man grows through receiving the proper nourishment, the more he will function normally. **OL3:** The growth into Christ in Ephesians 4:15 equals the putting on of the new man in verse 24.

Eph. 4:15 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.

Through holding Christ as the Head, we become conscious of the Body. Experiencing the Body life, we absorb the riches out from the Head. These riches are the very elements of God which become in the members of the Body the increase of God by which the whole Body grows. Therefore, the growth of the Body is the product of enjoying Christ, holding Him as the Head, and absorbing His riches.

The work of assimilation is a good illustration of dispensing. Immediately after eating, the fine work of dispensing begins in order to dispense the food into the cells, fibers, and tissues of our being. In the same way, the dispensing of the Triune God is to make the processed and consummated Triune God the very constitution of our being. This fine work of dispensing continues day by day.

The dispensing of the Triune God into us causes us to grow with the increase of God. For anything to grow it must increase with some element or substance. Human beings grow by the food they take in. If you do not eat anything, you cannot grow. We Christians grow with the increase, the surplus, the addition, of God. ...However, the amount of God that each brother or sister has differs. ...To have the Lord increase within us, we must come to the Word of God to eat each day.

Through the growth spoken of in Ephesians chapter 4, the new man comes into function. Through the operation in the measure of each part, the Body grows unto the building up of itself in love. The creation of the new man was the responsibility of the Lord alone. We have nothing whatever to do with this. But we must fulfill our

responsibility to perfect the new man through nourishing and cherishing. As the new man is perfected in this way, he grows and becomes perfect functionally.... The new man can become perfect in relation to his functions only through receiving the proper nourishment.

Application to young people and college students

Eating food is the dispensing of food into the body. Food supplies metabolically the elements of the body, such as protein and fat, and supplies carbohydrate, the source of energy for body. When you are participating in the divine dispensing in the morning revival, prayers, meetings, gospel preaching, and shepherding, the same things are happening in our spirit and soul.

Keywords for church life are dispensing, growing and functioning.

"Dispensing": First of all, eat and drink Christ and enjoy Him to participate in the divine dispensing. In order to participate in the dispensing richly, you need to take any chances to participate in the dispensing, such as morning revival, meeting, gospel preaching, shepherding others, and serving, where you exercise your spirit, love the Lord, open your heart to the Lord, and set your mind on spirit.

"Growing": Once you enjoy the dispensing, you can grow. In order to grow under dispensing, please train yourself to fellowship with the Lord. The beginning of fellowshiping with the Lord is pray-reading the Word. By pray-reading the Word, you can learn to fellowship with the Lord personally and intimately, and then you can develop your intimate fellowship with the Lord in your daily life. As an example, **2Cor. 4:16** tells us, **"Therefore we do not lose heart"**. You may fellowship with the Lord, such as: **"O Lord Jesus. Brother Paul charged us not to lose heart. Even Paul did experienced many sufferings, he did not lose his heart but instead burnt in spirit and advanced forward. However, my actual life is very far from Paul's life. In many situations, I lose my heart and murmur. I accept this word in faith. When I almost lose my heart, I will pray to myself, 'Therefore I do not lose heart'. In my daily life, may I experience growth under the God's dispensing."**

"Functioning": You may grow to be complete functionally. Being complete functionally means, (1) preaching gospel, (2) shepherding others, (3) prophesying, (4) perfecting new believers, and (5) building up to arrive at the practical oneness. To put it simply, you need to advance in functioning for BNPB (Begetting, Nourishing, Perfecting and Building).

Crucial Point(3): Service to struggle according to the operation of God until the new ones be full-grown in the function.

OL1: Our goal in preaching the gospel to sinners and in fellowshiping with the saints is to minister Christ into them so that they may mature in Him and be presented full-grown in Him; this is for the growth of the new man. **OL2:** Presenting others full-grown in Christ is a very difficult task; this task can be accomplished only by labor in which we struggle according to the operation of God. **OL3:** The growth of the new man results in the function of the new man. As long as the new man is short of growth and renewing, it will be lacking in function.

Eph. 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some as apostles ..., For

the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ, 16 ...all the Body,..., causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Even in preaching the gospel, our aim should be to impart life in order to present others mature, full-grown, in Christ. As we preach the gospel to unbelievers, minister Christ to them, and help them to receive the Lord, our goal is not merely that they should be saved from the lake of fire and from God's condemnation. Our goal is not only for them to experience God's forgiveness; it is to minister Christ into them so that they may eventually be presented full-grown in Christ.

In presenting others full-grown in Christ, we need to follow the principle set up in Genesis 2: Man tills the ground, and God sends the rain (v. 5) If we depend only on our work of tilling the ground and do not trust in the Lord to send the rain, we are wrong. But we are also wrong if we only pray to the Lord for rain and do not fulfill our responsibility to till the ground...we see that we should not merely pray, but also labor according to Christ's operation.

There is a capacity in the divine life that the believers possess and enjoy, and this capacity needs to be developed unto their ability. In the human life there is the capacity of hearing, seeing, smelling, speaking, and walking. All these capacities need a certain amount of development, and for the development to take place there is the need of practice.... For the function to be developed, there is the need for the growth of life and practice. An infant learns to speak by practicing and by the growth of life.

The traditional practice of Christianity annuls the capacity in the divine life that the believers possess and enjoy... [and] robs the believers of the opportunities to function. If a person gets saved and sits in a pew for a year, he will not learn how to function.... The truth concerning the perfecting of the saints is the opposite of the practice of traditional Christianity.

Application to the serving ones

As a serving one, recognize that the church life in the recovery is completely in accordance with Bible revelation and is different from the practice of other Christian organizations. The Bible reveals that all the brothers and sisters need to function for the one new man to be fulfilled. And everyone needs to function in the Lord's day meeting every week. For this purpose, the saints need to be perfected in function by the gifted members.

The more you do the service, the more you should not be alone. Instead, the more you serve, the serving ones should increase. You need to feed the new ones and let them grow, and lead them to function in various services. An important concept for building is that "each one functions". Make people who are not interested in the church be interested in the church and make those who are useless useful. For the work of perfecting, you need to learn to observe people carefully, find and develop their strengths. At the same time, let them overcome their shortcomings.

For example, some people have many drawbacks, but they are good at managing project schedules. These people can help to manage the schedule of students and young working ones. When one's own strengths are utilized, people will feel they can overcome their weaknesses.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, each one must function for the new man. I need to be perfected in order to be functional. Pay attention to the newcomers' interests, find their strengths and let them utilize them. And then let them learn to overcome their shortcomings. This is not easy, so I will struggle according to the inner operation of God. Make them become full-grown and present them to You."

The Mystery of Human Life (2)

The Miserable Situation of Human (3): "Anxiety"

- A. "My zeal has consumed me." (Psa. 119:139)
- B. Do not be anxious for the desire, the appetite, for the food and clothing resides. (Matt. 6:25 FN1)
- C. "Who among you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature (the length of his life)?" (Matt. 6:27b FN1)
- D. "The Lord is near. In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;" —Anxiety, coming from Satan, is the sum total of human life and disturbs the believers' life of living Christ. (Phil. 4:5b-6 FN1 of v.6)

Our attitude (2): "Come"

- A. "Come and let us return to Jehovah; For He ... will heal us, and ... 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." (Hos. 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 grace 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 can be considered a promise of the enjoyment of Christ, a call to take the water of life, which is the life-giving Spirit. (Rev. 22:17b FN1 of v.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. 55:1-3a)