

#5 Living Christ for the Reality of the Body of Christ

(The International Chinese-speaking Conference: Living in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Keeping the Principles of the Body) 2019/6/24-30

I. The church as the Body of Christ is a pure product out of Christ; only that which comes out of Christ with His resurrection life can be His complement and counterpart, the Body of Christ: [Gen. 2:22-23](#) And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man. And the man said, This time this is bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called Woman Because out of Man this one was taken.

A. The Head of the Body is Christ, and the Body of the Head is Christ, so the Body of Christ with Christ as the Head is “the Christ,” the corporate Christ. [1 Cor. 12:12](#) For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. **B.** Anything other than Christ is not the Body of Christ, and anything other than Christ is a foreign element in the Body of Christ; thus, we must be desperate as Paul was to live Christ for the reality of the Body.

C. All things other than the pure element of Christ are ruled out by this vision; this vision “paralyzes” us from exercising anything of our natural man. Mon

II. To live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ is to be imprisoned in our spirit as a “prisoner of Christ Jesus,” a “prisoner in the Lord,” and an “ambassador in a chain”: [Eph. 3:1](#) For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you, the Gentiles...

[4:1](#) I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called. **A.** When we are imprisoned in Christ, we receive a revelation of Him to experience Him in His unlimited dimensions as the church-loving Christ, the new-man-creating Christ, the all-things-heading-up Christ, the gift-making and gift-giving Christ, and the home-making Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ.

B. A person who lives Christ as an ambassador of Christ no longer has his own freedom and can no longer do things according to his own convenience; where he goes and what he does are not according to his choice but are under and according to the leading and directing hand of God.

C. To live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ is to be a captive of Christ in His triumphal procession, doing everything in the person of Christ in our spirit for the celebration of His victory in the work of the ministry to speak in Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ. Tue

III. The Body of Christ is the issue of the experience of Christ, so we need to pray desperately that we would live Christ for the Body of Christ to be a reality; the secret of how to live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ is in Romans 8, which is a definition, description, explanation, and presentation of the law of the Spirit of life:

[Rom. 8:2](#) For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

[4-6](#) That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit...For those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit...For the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

A. Romans 8 uses this term—the law of the Spirit of life—to describe how the Triune God, after having been processed and consummated to become the life-giving Spirit, has been installed into our spirit as a law, a spontaneous, automatic principle and power within us; this is one of the biggest discoveries, even recoveries, in God’s economy. Wed

B. We need to cooperate with the installed and operating law of the Spirit of life by “switching on” the spontaneous and automatic power of the installed and automatic God, the indwelling Spirit as the “current” of the Triune God; “to switch on” this law is to remain in touch with the Lord, to stay in constant contact with Him, to have habitual fellowship with Him, and to be under His constant infusion by walking according to the spirit: **1.** To behave, act, move, and live in the mingled spirit, which is the law of the Spirit of life mingled with our spirit, is to behave, act, move, and live in the Body of Christ.

2. In our spirit we have the presence of God, the speaking of God, the meeting with God, and the dispensing of God through His operation as the law of the Spirit of life to impart Himself into all our inward parts.

3. To walk according to the spirit is to pray at every time in spirit: **a.** Our unceasing, continual, living, and breathing prayer should be “Lord, live through me”. [1 Thes. 5:17](#) Unceasingly pray.

b. According to the revelation of Ephesians, we have to be persons who pray unceasingly in order to have the reality of the Body life; we must be watchful, fully awakened, fighting against our sleeping nature and our sleeping being, not just physically but also psychologically and spiritually. [Col. 4:2](#) Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving. [Eph. 6:17-18](#) And receive...the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, by means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit...

c. We need to exercise our spirit to rise up over our body and our psychology, taking heed to the Lord’s word to watch and pray, praying at every time in spirit and being watchful, on the alert, for the maintaining of our prayer life.

d. We must build up the habit of living Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ by building up the habit of prayer, the habit of breathing in the pneumatic Christ unceasingly by calling on Him and conversing with Him. Thu

4. We can live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ according to the law of the Spirit of life by being filled with the Spirit and by letting Christ’s word dwell in us richly. [Col. 3:16](#) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

5. We can live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ according to the law of the Spirit of life by being empty and open vessels: **a.** Paul’s fourteen Epistles may be summarized by two words: open vessel.

b. We need to love the Lord to the uttermost, keeping ourselves entirely, thoroughly, and absolutely open to Him, allowing Him to be everything to us and do everything in us, through us, and for us for the sake of His Body.

C. The operating of the law of the Spirit of life as the divine capacity within us spontaneously causes us to live God and become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. [Jer.](#)

31:33 But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Jehovah; I will put My law within them and write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. **Eze. 36:27** And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and My ordinances you shall keep and do. **D.** The operating of the law of the Spirit of life as the divine capacity within us spontaneously constitutes us to be the members of the Body of Christ with all kinds of functions so that all the Body causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Fri/Sat

Crucial Point①: Prisoner in Christ vs. Freedom in self

OL1: To live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ is to be imprisoned in our spirit as a “prisoner of Christ Jesus,” a “prisoner in the Lord,” and an “ambassador in a chain” **OL2:** When we are imprisoned in Christ, we receive a revelation of Him to experience Him in His unlimited dimensions as the church-loving Christ, the new-man-creating Christ, the all-things-heading-up Christ, the gift-making and gift-giving Christ, and the home-making Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Paul considered himself the prisoner of Christ because he had been imprisoned by Christ....Christ was Paul's prison. One day, the very Christ whom you love will become your prison. Sooner or later, every steward of God, every minister of God's riches, every faithful lover of Christ, will be imprisoned not only by Christ but also in Christ. The more you love Him, the more you will be in Him. Eventually, you will be in Him to such an extent that He will become your prison. Once you are placed in this prison, you will not want to get out, because you will love this prison very much. Here you enjoy Christ to the uttermost.

Everyone who loves the Bible has a high regard for the Epistle to the Ephesians....Ephesians contains the highest revelation in the Bible. This revelation was given to a man imprisoned in Christ, a man who enjoyed Christ as his prison. This indicates that in order to see something so heavenly and divine, we need to be a prisoner in the Lord. The more freedom we have, the more blind we are. But if Christ is our prison, our eyes will be opened to see the heavenly vision, and we shall receive the highest revelation.

Application to young working saints/ graduate students(1)

You should be imprisoned in Christ. Your colleagues may work unlimitedly or often go for drinking alcohol with their boss and senior workers. But as a prisoner of Christ you have no freedom to do so. Please compare these matters objectively. Please consider. Which is superior, “making progress in the company by relying on the boss and the seniors by sticking to them.” Or “making progress in the company by relying on the Lord by experiencing Christ in His unlimited measure”? Of course you need to keep good relationship with your boss and seniors, but you have no freedom to work unlimitedly or going to drink alcohol often because you love the Lord and you are imprisoned in the Lord.

You need to make clear that you have to choose either. If you act freely as the people in the world, you are not a “prisoner in Christ”. And if so, you have no vision and experience concerning the church as the mystery of Christ, the Body of Christ in the book of Ephesians. And also your

business life or research life can not be blessed according to God's economy. If you complain that you can not go to drink with boss because of the church life, or making the excuse of not going to the meeting because of your joining to drink, this shows you do not make decision on this choice yet. You can choose only one here. May you make a wise decision by faith as Moses did.

Heb. 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **25** Choosing rather to be ill treated with the people of God than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin,

Prayer: “Oh, Lord Jesus, I have two options in front of me. One is the option of “fearing men and flatter” and the other is the option of “fearing God, loving God and relying on God”. By your grace and mercy, make me a prisoner in Christ. I choose willingly to lose freedom. As a prisoner in the Lord, let me see and experience the vision concerning the Body of Christ, the church as the mystery of Christ. I give my business life for the building up of the Body of Christ. May the Lord bless my business life. Amen! “

Crucial Point②: The greatest discovery in God's economy:

The law of the Spirit of life is installed in my spirit

OL1: We need to cooperate with the installed and operating law of the Spirit of life by “switching on” the spontaneous and automatic power of the installed and automatic God, the indwelling Spirit as the “current” of the Triune God; “to switch on” this law is to remain in touch with the Lord, to stay in constant contact with Him, to have habitual fellowship with Him, and to be under His constant infusion by walking according to the spirit. **OL2:** In our spirit we have the presence of God, the speaking of God, the meeting with God, and the dispensing of God through His operation as the law of the Spirit of life to impart Himself into all our inward parts. **OL3:** We need to exercise our spirit to rise up over our body and our psychology, taking heed to the Lord's word to watch and pray, praying at every time in spirit and being watchful, on the alert, for the maintaining of our prayer life.

OL4: We must build up the habit of living Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ by building up the habit of prayer, the habit of breathing in the pneumatic Christ unceasingly by calling on Him and conversing with Him. **Rom. 8:1** There is now then no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

The very God who is triune and who has been processed and who has become the indwelling Spirit is first installed into our spirit. Then from our spirit He spreads into our mind, and from our mind He eventually saturates our body. The very God installed into us is the law of the Spirit of life. Today this God does everything for us not by activity but always by law....[Today] we just need to walk according to the spirit. That means we set our mind on the spirit. When we walk according to the spirit, many wonderful doings are going on within us by the law. That is God working within us.

According to the traditional Christian concepts, when we pray to God for certain things, then God comes in to do something as an activity. But according to Romans 8, in God's New Testament economy He does not work that way. That was the Old Testament economy....But in the New Testament...God as the Triune God has been processed to

be the indwelling, all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit. And the Spirit today, according to Romans 8, is a law. This means that it is the spontaneous automatic principle of the processed Triune God working within us. In the New Testament economy, God works for His redeemed people not by activities but by the automatic principle.

That God works within us not by activities but by law...is one of the biggest discoveries, even recoveries, in God's economy. We need...to cooperate with Him....To cooperate with this law is to walk according to the spirit, and

to walk according to the spirit is the way to cooperate with this working law. The law has been installed, but the law's function and the law's operation need your cooperation. And your cooperation is just to walk according to the spirit.

Application to young people/ college students

Because there is various convenient software installed in PC and smart phone, we can check the weather report etc. by using them. Praise the Lord. The processed Triune God has been installed in our spirit already as a law. As we switch on and start the software, if we turn to our spirit and exercise our spirit, automatically God works within us as a law.

Since this law of the Spirit of life is the law that operates automatically, anytime, anywhere, once you call upon the name of the Lord, turn to your spirit, put your mind on the spirit, it works automatically. You just need to (1) discover the fact that the law of the Spirit of life has been already installed in you, (2) Call upon the name of the Lord, exercise the spirit and put your mind on the spirit and walk according to the Spirit. This is the best cooperation that you should offer. The fact that God works within you as law is the greatest discovery in God's economy.

By the degradation, your body became flesh and your soul became self. The self is totally useless in the matter of God neither it can not be fixed. Thus the life you live according to your flesh is the life of "going down". But if you turn to your spirit where Triune God is installed in as a law, and walk according to the spirit, you can live a life of "Going up". You need to resist the tendency in your body which goes down, for example "let me take rest because I'm too tired", or the psychological tendency, for example "I want to skip the meeting because I don't feel good" and exercise your spirit to "go up". To have a life of "going up", we need to be watchful and cautious to maintain the life of prayer. [Eph. 6: 17](#) · · the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, [18](#) By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus. I have discovered in the church life that the law of the Spirit of life has been installed in my spirit. Praise the Lord. I will stand up by exercising my spirit and overcome the tendency of going down in my body and soul, taking heed to the Word of the Lord and be watchful to pray, praying every time in spirit to keep the life of prayer. Let me have the school life that goes up by making this habit of prayer."

Crucial Point (3): Learn to be active-passive to the Lord, be filled with the Lord, and let the Lord do everything

OL1: We can live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ according to the law of the Spirit of life by being filled with the Spirit and by letting Christ's word dwell in us richly. **OL2:**

We can live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ according to the law of the Spirit of life by being empty and open vessels. **OL3:** We need to love the Lord to the uttermost, keeping ourselves entirely, thoroughly, and absolutely open to Him, allowing Him to be everything to us and do everything in us, through us, and for us for the sake of His Body. **OL4:** The operating of the law of the Spirit of life as the divine capacity within us spontaneously constitutes us to be the members of the Body of Christ with all kinds of functions so that all the Body causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

In [Romans 9:23](#) Paul tells us that God created us as "vessels of mercy unto glory". Then in [2 Corinthians 4:7](#) he says that "we have this treasure in earthen vessels." These two verses may be considered as a basic secret to our experience of Christ and the church. You may hear a lot of messages on Christ and the church, yet if you do not realize that you have to be an open vessel, Christ and the church still have no way. What is the meaning of an open vessel? An open vessel is doing nothing but keeping itself open to the filling up. The processed God—the Triune God, the all-inclusive Spirit, the compound Spirit—is here waiting for an opening to get into you. How much He would enter into you depends upon how much opening you would give Him.

The Lord wants you to be active-passive. This means that He wants you to love Him and keep yourself all the time open to Him but to stop doing. Then you would see that you are saved, you are empowered, you are sanctified. You will become one who really enjoys the Lord's doing. When you pray, you will all the time be full of thanks....You do not need to pray that the Lord will help you to win the victory and to overcome sin and to be patient. When you pray in this way, asking the Lord to help you, eventually it is not the Lord who helps you. You simply help yourself. Eventually, you are not so grateful, because you realize that you did everything. You just need to love Him and to keep yourself open to Him, giving Him every opportunity to do everything He wants to do. You become the enjoyer, enjoying Him and enjoying His doing. So whenever you would pray, thanks would come out of your mouth because you are so grateful to the Lord.

It does not mean that you are lazy or indifferent or dumb or sleepy. No. You are on the alert, and you are so sober. You love the Lord, and you keep yourself open to Him all the time. Yet you would not do anything, but He would do everything. Not only is this possible, but this is also required by the Lord. The Lord requires you to stop your doing. But He does not want you to be sleepy or indifferent; He wants you to be very alert. Love Him and keep yourself open to Him. Tell Him every day, "Lord, I love You. Lord, I am here open to You. Lord, have mercy upon me, and by Your grace I do not like to have any part of my being closed to You. I like to keep myself entirely and thoroughly open to You." If you try this, you will see what will happen. You will not need to worry about your victory; you will not need to worry about the losing of your temper.

Application to young working saints/graduate students(2)

In order to participate in the priestly service of the New Testament gospel, you need to be filled with the Spirit. For this, you need to be an open vessel. God

created you not as a tool but a vessel. God does not want you to work, instead, He wants to fill your vessel with God to express God through you. This is God's basic idea for you.

With the understanding that you are a vessel, you should learn to be active-passive to God. On the one hand, you should be active to be filled up with the Spirit. It does not mean that you are lazy or indifferent or dumb or sleepy, but it means that you are on the alert and so sober, love the Lord passionately and keep yourself open to Him all the time.

On the other hand, you need to be passive. You should not do anything by yourself, but should let the Lord do everything. For example, you are going to attend the important meeting of your company and need to make a certain decision. You should practice the morning revival not only that morning but every morning and be filled with the Spirit every day. And then you attend that meeting with the Lord, praying "Lord, please become my ability of listening, understanding, discerning, and making decision. I do not want to rely on my own ability to listen, to understand or to make decision. If I do so, I will fail for sure. I rely on the Lord and follow your speaking." When you come to the situation that you must make decision, you pray, "Lord Jesus, as I heard many discussions here, I feel we should move this project forward. But I can not decide by myself alone. I follow you. I set my mind on the spirit and follow the mingled spirit. If you say Go, I go. If not, I don't. Please be my decision in me."

1Cor15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

The High Gospel Topic 12 The Loving Father

Luke 15:20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately. 21 And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son. 22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry, 24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

GOD JUSTIFYING MAN

After the father kissed him, the son immediately began his prepared speech. But when he had just finished his first three sentences, the father interrupted him. The son had just said, "I am no more worthy to be called thy son," but the father said to the servants, "Bring forth quickly the best robe, and put it on him." The heart of the father could not stand the son saying that he was unworthy to be called his son. So he commanded his servants to bring forth the best robe. The word the is an important word. The best robe was the robe that had been prepared a long time ago. When the father spoke, the servants knew which one it was. The father only had to say "the best robe," and the servants understood right away. The father also put a ring on the son's hand and shoes on his feet and killed the fattened calf. All of these were beyond the son's expectation.

Just as the son did, we prepare a speech, but God brings forth the best robe. The word BUT should be stressed. It is a big word in the New Testament. This but makes us saved. We should be condemned, but God justified us; we should be going to hell, but we go to the heavens instead. Putting on the robe signifies Christ as our righteousness. When a sinner puts on Christ, he matches God and is justified. The father also put shoes on the son. Shoes separate man from the earth. When a man returns to God and is justified and sealed by the Holy Spirit, he is able to be separated from the earth. After putting the shoes on his feet, the father killed the fattened calf. Killing the fattened calf signifies Christ prepared for us as our life and enjoyment. Only when Christ comes into us can we be filled and happy.

GOD AND MAN MAKING MERRY TOGETHER

It was at this time that the father and the son ate and drank and were happy together. Before the son came back, the father had no joy. While the son was away from home, wandering and suffering, the father was also suffering at home. When sinners are away from God, wandering and suffering, God is unhappy. Only when sinners are at home with God, eating and making merry, is God joyful. When a sinner returns to God, he is received and justified by Him. In other words, he is found and he is alive.

Hymn 1052 Gospel—Coming to the Lord

1. I've wandered far away from God, Now I'm coming home;
The paths of sin too long I've trod, Lord, I'm coming home.
(C) Coming home, coming home, Nevermore to roam;
Open wide Thine arms of love; Lord, I'm coming home.
2. I've wasted many precious years, Now I'm coming home;
I now repent with bitter tears, Lord, I'm coming home.
3. I'm tired of sin and straying, Lord, Now I'm coming home;
I'll trust Thy love, believe Thy word; Lord, I'm coming home.
4. My soul is sick, my heart is sore, Now I'm coming home;
My strength renew, my hope restore: Lord, I'm coming home.