

I. The intrinsic essence of the church is the divine life, which generates the church: **A.** The intrinsic essence of the church is the divine life, the indestructible life, which the processed Triune God has dispensed into us and is now dispensing into us; this divine life is actually the processed and now-dispensing Triune God: **1.** The divine life generates us by the regeneration of the Spirit in our spirit; the divine Spirit begets the human spirit, and these two spirits are mingled as one. **2.** When we are regenerated, we are made the children of God as the bride of Christ, who is the Bridegroom, for His increase, as typified by Eve as the counterpart to Adam: **a)** Before Eve came into existence, she was a rib of Adam, a part of Adam; according to this revelation, we can say that before the church came into existence, she was a part of Christ; just as the members of our physical body are parts of us, the members of Christ are parts of Christ. **b)** Just Adam's rib imparted life into Eve to make her Adam's counterpart, so Christ's eternal, divine, indestructible life imparts life into us to make us His counterpart. **B.** Christ became the intrinsic essence of the church through the release of His divine life as the one grain of wheat falling into the ground and dying there for His multiplication. **C.** Christ became the intrinsic essence of the church through the impartation of His divine life as the firstborn Son of God in His resurrection, that God may have many sons as the many brothers of Christ. **D.** The many brothers of Christ are His many branches grafted into Him, the true vine in the universe, to bear much fruit for His enlargement in His spreading so that they might express the Triune God as His organism; when the branches of the vine receive a sufficient supply of the life-giving Spirit as the life-juice of Christ, they bear fruit as the overflow of the inner life supply. **E.** This organism of the Triune God is the organic Body of Christ, constituted with His many brothers as the many members of His organic Body.

II. We need to see and experience the organic existence of the church: **A.** The church exists in the universe as the one universal church of God for His universal expression, the fullness of God. **B.** The church is spreading in many localities on the earth as the many local churches to be His local expressions: **1.** In 1 Corinthians 12:28 Paul puts apostles (who are universal), prophets and teachers (who are both universal and local), and deacons and elders (who are local) all together; this means that the word church in this verse implies the universal church and all the local

churches. **2.** In the eyes of God the universal church and all the local churches are just "the church"; the processed and now-dispensing Triune God is one, and He is the very essence of the church; therefore, this church, in both its universal and local aspects, is one church. **C.** When we come back to the intrinsic essence of the church for its organic existence, we will not talk wrongly about the erroneous teaching that the local churches could be different from one another; all the churches are the unique, one organism of the processed and dispensing Triune God. **D.** According to the Scriptures, the practical, sevenfold oneness is for us to be **1**) one in teaching, **2**) one in practice, **3**) one in thinking, **4**) one in speaking, and **5**), **6**), & **7**) one in essence, appearance, and expression. **]]**

III. We must continuously exercise our spirit and turn our heart to the Lord in order to stay on the way of life in the reality of the intrinsic essence of the church for its organic existence: **A.** We must walk in the way of life to live by the tree of life according to the spirit, not in the way of death to live by the tree of the knowledge of right and wrong according to the self. **B.** We stay on the way of life by loving the Lord to the uttermost; to believe in the Lord is to receive Him as life; to love the Lord is to enjoy Him as life. **C.** The love between us and the Lord depends on our thoughts: **1.** In 2 Corinthians 11:2 Paul says that he betrothed us to one husband to present us as a pure virgin to Christ with a proper love toward Him in order to enjoy Him; then in verse 3 Paul tells us that it is possible for our thoughts to be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ. **2.** The following symptoms of problems with man's thoughts are all hindrances to the enjoyment of Christ as life: **a)** The first symptom of problems with man's thoughts is having hardened thoughts. **b)** The second symptom of problems with man's thoughts is being blinded by Satan. **c)** The third symptom of problems with man's thoughts is rebellion. **d)** The fourth symptom of problems with man's problems is corruption. **3.** We should pray, "O Lord, search my thoughts, and rescue my thoughts so that they can focus solely and entirely on You". **4.** To enjoy Christ as the intrinsic essence of the church, we must have a burning love toward Him by giving Him the first place in all things. **D.** May we continuously receive the merciful compassions of our God so that we may remain on the way of life, the line of life, and in the maintenance of life by enjoying Christ as the tree of life in the flow of life for God's building in life by our growth in life; this is for us to remain in the intrinsic essence of the church for its organic existence.

CP1: It is no longer old me who live, but Christ lives in new me. This is the core of God's economy

OL1: The intrinsic essence of the church is the divine life, which generates the church. 1 John 1:2 ...The life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us. 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.

Because He is the dispensing God, He is able to regenerate us, and this regenerating life is the divine life...The divine life is the dispensing God, who is the very essence of the church...We Christians love one another because we have the same essence. It does not matter whether we are American, European, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, white, black, yellow, brown, or red. As long as we are real Christians, we have a loving essence within us. When we turn away from this intrinsic essence to touch other things, we begin to fight one another.... In order to solve the problems between Christians, we must come to the intrinsic matters of the church: first, the intrinsic essence; second, the intrinsic growth; third, the intrinsic building up; and fourth, the intrinsic fellowship.

The intrinsic essence of the church is the divine life that the processed Triune God has dispensed and is now dispensing into us. The divine life generates us by the regeneration of the Spirit in our spirit. The divine Spirit begets the human spirit. How wonderful it is that these two spirits are mingled as one!

OL2: When we are regenerated, we are made the children of God as the bride of Christ, who is the Bridegroom, for His increase, as typified by Eve as the counterpart to Adam. Gen. 2:22 And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man. John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name. 13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 3:29-30 He who has the bride is the bridegroom...He must increase, but I must decrease. When we are regenerated, we are made the children of God as the bride of Christ, who is the Bridegroom, for His increase, as typified by Eve as the counterpart to Adam. Regeneration makes the believers the children of God.

Individually, we are children of God, but corporately we are one entity, the bride of Christ. In the first part of John 3 the Lord Jesus spoke concerning regeneration. Later in the same chapter John the Baptist referred to the regenerated ones in totality as the one bride of Christ...When the Lord Jesus was put to death,... He did not remain in death; He resurrected. In His resurrection He brought many saved ones with Him and brought them forth to become parts of Him. When all these parts are put together, they become a bride as His counterpart.

Application to New ones, Youth and College Students

When you believed and were baptized, you were saved and born with the life of God. Because of this life, you have become a child of God, a brother in Christ, a member of the family of God, and a member of the Body of Christ. You can boast in the Lord that you have this eternal life of God and pray, "Hallelujah! I have the eternal life of God, the divine life. I was begotten not of a good family, nor of the will of corrupted flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God".

Secondly, you have the responsibility to enjoy and grow this life every day. In order to fulfill your responsibility, you should ① pray-read the word of God for every morning revival, ② fellowship with the Lord in prayers, ③ have open and intimate fellowship with the brothers and sisters, ④ participate in the Lord's Table, ⑤ crucify the old man so that Christ may live inside. Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. While ① to ④ is the outward practical practices, ⑤ is the intrinsic core of God's economy. No matter what you are doing, you must reach the intrinsic experience of "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." This, is the focus of God's New Testament economy. By doing this, you can grow into Christ, the Head, and function as a member of the Body of Christ and be coordinated with fellow members.

Brother's testimony: Before I got saved, while I was in junior and senior high school, I was troubled by my mental weakness. Now that I think about it, Satan was attacking my nervous nature, and was intimidating me, bothering me, and making me weak. After enrolling into college and was saved, when I was in an Aikido competition (not in a match but a demonstration), I went to the bathroom and prayed the following, "Oh Lord Jesus, I have a nervous nature. Until now, even if I could do it in practice, I either failed or escaped when it came to the real thing. But now You are living in me. I don't think you are nervous. If You are not nervous, then I, who You live in, should not be nervous, either. Lord, I am serious. You live in me and do all things with me. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Each time after praying like this, there was a new me, completely different from the old me, I was freed from tension, impatience, and anxiety, and a focused new me. As I realized later, my subjective experience of "the indwelling of Christ" is the intrinsic core of God's economy. Immediately after such a subjective experience, the power to speak and preach the gospel at meetings emerged.

Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, from the time I believed and received the Lord, the divine life has begun to live in me. Now, I have the responsibility of enjoying this life and letting it grow in me every day. For that I need to cooperate with the Lord in ① pray-read the word of God for every morning revival, ② fellowship with the Lord in prayers, ③ have open and intimate fellowship with the brothers and sisters, ④ participate in the Lord's Table, ⑤ crucifying the old man so that Christ may live in me. May I live out Christ who is living in me. Amen!

CP2: Live in Christ as the true vine, receive the supply of the divine life, love one another and bear remaining fruit

OL1: The many brothers of Christ are His many branches grafted into Him, the true vine in the universe, to bear much fruit for His enlargement in His spreading so that they might express the Triune God as His organism; when the branches of the vine receive a sufficient supply of the life-giving Spirit as the life-juice of Christ, they bear fruit as the overflow of the inner life supply.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. **4** Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. **OL2:** This organism of the Triune God is the organic Body of Christ, constituted with His many brothers as the many members of His organic Body.

OL3: We need to see and experience the organic existence of the church. The church exists in the universe as the one universal church of God for His universal expression, the fullness of God. The church is spreading in many localities on the earth as the many local churches to be His local expressions.

OL4: In 1 Corinthians 12:28 Paul puts apostles (who are universal), prophets and teachers (who are both universal and local), and deacons and elders (who are local) all together; this means that the word church in this verse implies the universal church and all the local churches.

1 Cor. 12:28 And God has placed some in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then works of power, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

OL5: In the eyes of God the universal church and all the local churches are just "the church"; the processed and now-dispensing Triune God is one, and He is the very essence of the church; therefore, this church, in both its universal and local aspects, is one church. When we come back to the intrinsic essence of the church for its organic existence, we will not talk wrongly about the erroneous teaching that the local churches could be different from one another; all the churches are the unique, one organism of the processed and dispensing Triune God.

OL6: According to the Scriptures, the practical, sevenfold oneness is for us to be **①** one in teaching, **②** one in practice, **③** one in thinking, **④** one in speaking, and **⑤** one in essence, **⑥** appearance, and **⑦** expression. **Eph. 4:3-6** ...Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.

Application to business person/graduate students

Recognize that you are a branch grafted into Christ, the

true vine. The emphasis in John 15 is on **①** the vision of the vine and its branches, **②** the branches need to live in the vine, **③** the branches need to love one another, and **④** bearing fruit and the fruit should remain. **John 15:1** I am the true vine, FN **the true vine** The true vine (the Son) with its branches (the believers in the Son) is the organism of the Triune God in God's economy. This organism grows with His riches and expresses His divine life.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you. **Set** We were wild branches, and through faith we have been grafted into Christ. Here the Lord said that He set us. This fits the thought of grafting.

go forth and bear fruit The fruit borne by going forth in this way does not denote the virtues of the fruit-bearer's character, such as the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the believer's living, mentioned in Gal. 5:22-23, but it denotes the believers produced by the fruit-bearer. Only the believers that we produce in the Lord are the tangible multiplication of Christ. The true vine in this chapter is related to the multiplication of Christ. **fruit should remain**

After we go forth to produce believers in the Lord, we need to care for them. The best way is to set up meetings in their homes to cover and protect them that they may be cared for by being nourished and taught, and may become the remaining fruit, living in the branches of the true vine, that is, in the Body of Christ, to be Christ's increase. **17** These things I command you that you may love one another. **love one another** This is to love one another in the Lord's life, the divine life, in the Lord's love, and in His commission of fruit-bearing. Life is the source, love is the condition, and fruit-bearing is the goal.

Businesspersons and researchers should work diligently in the Lord and have testimony of the Lord in their work. In addition, they should go out regularly to preach the gospel, bring people to salvation, nourish new ones in home meetings, and bear remaining fruit.

In order to keep the oneness of the universal Body of Christ, we are to read the same morning nourishment as our brothers and sisters throughout the earth, to eat the same things, and to speak the same things. And for the reality of the Body of Christ, the churches (especially the neighboring churches) should be blended. Of course, there should be blending among the six districts of the church in Kobe.

Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, I am a branch grafted into Christ, the true vine. The branches live in the vine, receive and enjoy abundant nourishment, and love one another. They become testimony by diligently working in the Lord at work and in graduate school. In addition, we need to go out regularly to preach the gospel, bring people to salvation, feed new ones at home meetings, and bear remaining fruit. This is the goal of the branches of the vine. Even though I am busy with work, I must bear the remaining fruit!

CP3: Turn our heart to the Lord and four symptoms, hardened thoughts, blindness by darkness, rebellion, corruption, will be healed to love the Lord purely

OL1: We must continuously exercise our spirit and turn our heart to the Lord in order to stay on the way of life in the reality of the intrinsic essence of the church for its organic existence. 2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ. With regard to being virgins, we must have a proper love toward Him in order to enjoy Him in a proper way. Whenever our love toward Him is not proper, everything is finished, just as a normal relationship between a husband and wife is lost when a wife does not love her husband. A proper relationship does not depend upon the cleverness or capabilities of a wife, but on her love. OL2: The first symptom of problems with man's thoughts is having hardened thoughts, the second symptom is being blinded by Satan, the third symptom is rebellion, and the fourth symptom is corruption. We should pray, "O Lord, search my thoughts, and rescue my thoughts so that they can focus solely and entirely on You" 2 Cor. 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds, 5 as we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ. We need to be watchful in regard to our love....The love between us and the Lord depends on our thoughts, just as the love between a husband and wife depends on having proper thoughts about one another. If a wife is not proper in her thoughts concerning her husband, there will be a serious problem. If she has been deceived by her friends or influenced by her relatives, her thoughts about her husband will be corrupted. As a result, her love for her husband will be in trouble.... Love is a feeling that is very tender and delicate. According to 2 Corinthians, the first sign of a problem with our thoughts is that we become hardened....When a person has a strong thought concerning something apart from the Lord, his thoughts can become hardened. Once a person is hardened in his thoughts, there will be a veil between him and the Lord, and he will be unable to know the Lord.

The second symptom of problems with man's thoughts is being blinded by Satan. A man's thoughts are like his eyes. Everything that comes into a man must first pass through his thoughts, just as physical scenery must first pass through one's eyes. If our thoughts are blinded by Satan, there will be a veil on our thoughts. It is harder to deal with a veil than with hardened thoughts. Romans 8:6 says that we should set our mind on the spirit. In order for our thoughts to be rescued, our thoughts must be turned, our thoughts must be focused, our thoughts must be purified, and our thoughts must be on the proper track.

Application for the serving ones

You need to be healed from the four symptoms of problems of hardened thoughts, a veil from the darkness, rebellion, and corruption in your thoughts. If the symptoms of problems in your thought can be healed, you can grow a lot as a businessperson, as a student, as a housewife, or as a serving one.

In global business, while the diligence of the Japanese is highly valued, the stubbornness of the Japanese and their reluctance to accept new things are sometimes regarded as problems.

For example, Japan's labor productivity was excellent from 1990 to 1997. Later, in the era of dramatic improvements in labor productivity through the use of IT, Japan is the lowest among developed countries in recent years. Japan was good at making improvements in the field, but since the digital age of IT, it has been extremely slow to respond to it compared to other countries. This is due to the Japanese national character, which makes it difficult for the Japanese to accept new things, does not like change, and respects tradition. Japanese-speaking saints should recognize that their old man is stubborn, stereotypical and prejudiced, and have difficulty accepting change. Then, train and exercise your spirit, open your mind, set your mind to the spirit, confess your shortcomings, and fellowship with the Lord. Otherwise, you are likely to fail to participate the renewing of your mind under the divine dispensing.

Satan injects the thoughts of darkness into man's thoughts. For example, when it comes to your spouse or service partner, Satan will inject thoughts into your thoughts that make you dislike them. The more you think about them, the darker you become, the more you dislike them, the more you hate them. You should take Christ as your helmet of salvation and reject these injections of Satan. And set the mind on the spirit and pray, "Oh Lord, I thank You for my spouse. Thank you, Lord, for my partner in service. They are the beloved saints who help me. I reject all of Satan's proposals, rather than partially rejecting them. Satan's proposal is not even worth considering. Go away, Satan! Amen!" Then you will find God's wonderful arrangement.

In 2 Corinthians chapter 10, the strongholds of our thoughts are destroyed, and in chapter 11, it is revealed that we are to love the Lord with a pure heart. This means that if you are healed from the four symptoms in your thoughts, your thoughts will be healthy and you will be able to love the Lord purely, love your spouse, and love your spiritual partner. For emotions to function properly, mind need to function properly. May you be able to apply these principles in your actual marriage life, business life, and church life. Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, I need to be healed from the four symptoms of problems of my thoughts in order to love You with the simplicity and purity. Lord, heal the four symptoms of stubbornness, darkness, rebellion, and corruption in my thoughts. Especially Japanese are stubborn, have strong stereotypes and prejudices, and find it difficult to accept new things. If we can free ourselves from the stereotypes and prejudices that come from this stubbornness and veil, we can properly appreciate the truth of God's economy, the supply of life, building, and the church life.