

8/24-30#4 Living the Life of a God-man by Living in the Kingdom of God as the Realm of the Divine Species:

I. Because we have been born of God, we are God's species; that is, we are God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.

II. The God-men have the divine right to participate in God's species.

III. As believers in Christ, we are living the life of a God-man: John 3:3 ...Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Mark 4:26 ...So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth, 27 ...and the seed sprouts and lengthens... 28 The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear. 29 But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come. **A** In Christ God has been constituted into man, man has been constituted into God, and God and man have been mingled together to be one entity, which is called the God-man. **B** The God-men, the sons of God, are the duplication and continuation of Christ, the first God-man. **C** A God-man is one who has been born of God and partakes of God's life and nature, becoming one with God in His life and nature and thereby expressing Him. **D** A God-man is constituted with God, having God as his life, nature, and everything; a God-man is man yet God and God yet man. **E** Christ's human living was man living God to express the attributes of God in the human virtues, which were filled, mingled, and saturated with the divine attributes. **F** As the reproduction and duplication of the first God-man, we should live the same kind of life that He lived: **1** The Lord's God-man living set up a model for our God-man living—being crucified to live God so that God might be expressed in humanity. 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... **2** The Lord Jesus did not live a life of trying to be spiritual, holy, and victorious; He lived a life that was fully according to and for God's New Testament economy. **3** In the four Gospels we see Jesus living the life of a God-man, and in Acts we see the disciples also living such a life. **4** Christ lived a life of suffering, a suffering life; now we are His partners living the same kind of life; when we suffer for Christ, our sufferings are counted by God as the sufferings of Christ. **5** We must deny ourselves, be

conformed to Christ's death, and magnify Him by the bountiful supply of His Spirit. Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. **6** The One who lived the life of a God-man is now the Spirit living in us and through us; we must reject self-cultivation and the building up of our natural man and allow nothing other than this One to fill us and occupy us so that we may live Him and express Him personally and corporately in the church, which is His Body. **IV. As believers in Christ, we are living in the kingdom of God:** **A** The kingdom of God is God Himself. Matt.6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **B** The kingdom of God is God in Christ being the totality of the divine life with all its activities. **C** The kingdom of God is the realm of the divine life for this life to move, to work, to rule, and to govern that life may accomplish its purpose. **D** The kingdom of God is an organism constituted with God's life as the realm of life for His ruling, in which He reigns by His life and expresses Himself as the Divine Trinity in the divine life. **E** The kingdom of God is a realm, not only of the divine dominion but also of the divine species, in which are all the divine things: **1** In John 3 the kingdom of God refers more to the species of God than to the reign of God. **2** God became man to enter into the human species, and man becomes God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to enter into the realm of the divine species. Rom.1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, **4** Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord; **3** In order to enter into the realm of the divine species, we need to be born of God to have the divine life and the divine nature: **a** God created man not according to man's kind but in His image and according to His likeness to be God's kind, God's species. **b** The believers, who are born of God by regeneration to be His children in His life and nature but not in His Godhead, are more God's kind than Adam was: John1:12 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. **14** Adam had only the outward appearance without the inward reality of the divine life. **2** We, the believers in Christ and the children of God, have the reality of the divine life, and we are being transformed and

conformed to the Lord's image in our entire being. **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; **(3)** Our second birth, regeneration, caused us to enter into the kingdom of God to become the species of God. **(4)** We have been regenerated to be Godkind; as God's sons, we are God's kind, God's species. **(5)** All the children of God are in the divine realm of the divine species. **(6)** The believers are God-men in the divine species, that is, in the kingdom of God. **(7)** We live in the kingdom of God as the realm of the divine life by the sense of life. **(8)** In the church, we are living in the kingdom of God today; Romans 14:17 is a strong proof that today's church life is the kingdom. **14:17** For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **(9)** When we exercise that part of us which is the new creation—Christ Himself as the element of the kingdom of God—we are living in the kingdom of God. **(10)** The overcomers will inherit the kingdom of Christ and of God so that they can enter into the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens. **V. In the Gospel of John we see many aspects of the believers' living in the realm of the divine species:** **A** "Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace"(1:16). **B** "The water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life"(4:14b). **C** "He who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me"(6:57b). **D** "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him"(12:26). **E** "In My Father's house are many abodes...I go to prepare a place for (14:2). **F** "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you"(20). **G** "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him"(23). **H** "Abide in Me and I in you"(15:4a). **I** "If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you"(7). **J** "As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love"(9). **K** "These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full"(11). **L** "These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace"; "My peace I give to you"(16:33a,14:27b). **M** "Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are"(17:11b). **N** "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We

are one". **O** "I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one"(23a). **P** "Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory"(24a).

Testimony When I was young and had just started teaching, I think I had an image in my mind of what an ideal teacher should be like, and I tried to act according to that image. As a result, there were times when I was unnecessarily strict with the children, and I think my zeal was sometimes unbalanced. However, through living the church life, I began to repent that I was not for the kingdom. Since then, instead of trying to live according to my ideal image of what a teacher should be, I have been learning to take God's righteousness as the center of my being. Especially over the past three or four years, I feel that I have gradually been released from the pressure of other people's expectations. Instead of acting according to my idea of what a teacher should be, I have learned to face and care for the children who are right in front of me. As a result, they have begun to open their hearts and talk to me more freely. Even when elementary school children have difficulty putting their feelings into words, I have become more able to understand what they are trying to say by rephrasing their words and helping them express themselves. In this way, I feel that I am learning to maintain peace with the children. On the other hand, there are still many times when I am not tolerant enough toward my colleagues. I realize that my capacity still needs to be enlarged. Some of the children have told me, "I have fun because you look like you're having fun, too." And one of my colleagues said to me, "I feel at ease because you're always smiling so much." Although various problems arise, I think I am able to smile because, in the church life, I walk before God and am filled with joy. The kingdom of God means that God is life to us, that He increases within us, that He gains more ground within us, and that He reigns as King over our entire being. I thank God that He has come into me. I want to be a teacher who remains under the heavenly ruling, deals with myself according to righteousness, maintains peace with the children, their parents, and my colleagues, and is filled with joy with God before Him. Lord Jesus, I call upon Your name. Lord, increase within me.