

HWMR - Thanksgiving Conference 2018

General Subject:

The Reality of the Body of Christ

Message Four

Blending for the Reality of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 12:24; 10:17; Lev. 2:4; Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:16; 1 Cor. 13:4-8a

- 1 Corinthians 12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has **blended** the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,
- 1 Corinthians 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, **we who are many are one Body**; for we all partake of the one bread.
- Leviticus 2: 4 And when you present an offering of a **meal offering** baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.
- Ephesians 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Ephesians 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.
- 1 Corinthians 13: 4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;
- 1 Corinthians 13: 5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;
- 1 Corinthians 13: 6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- 1 Corinthians 13: 7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 1 Corinthians 13: 8 Love never falls away. But whether prophecies, they will be rendered useless; or tongues, they will cease; or knowledge, it will be rendered useless.

The purpose of the **blending** is to **usher us** all into the **reality of the Body of Christ**
 The reality of the Body of Christ **is the corporate living** by the perfected God-men
 The reality of the Body of Christ **is the mingling living** in the **eternal union** of the regenerated, transformed, and glorified tripartite God-men with the Triune God in the resurrection of Christ

DAY 1

I. The highest peak in God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ; the reality of the Body of Christ is absolutely **organic—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; 12:4-5.**

II. The Lord's recovery is for the **building up of the Body of Christ; thus, to know the Body is the **proper recovery of the Lord**—1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:16; Col. 3:15:**

- A. The church takes the Body of Christ as its **organic** factor; without the Body of Christ the church is lifeless and is a mere human organization—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13, 27.
- B. The Body is the intrinsic significance of the church; without the Body the church makes no sense and has no meaning—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1, 4, 16.
- C. The elders should shepherd one another and love one another to be a model of the Body life; the elders need to love one another, their wives need to love one another, and they need to love one another's children—John 21:15-17; 1 Cor. 13:4-8a.

We may think that it is easy to understand the **organic building up of the Body of Christ**, but actually this matter is difficult to define. We may have the terminology of the organic building, but we may not have the proper understanding of what this organic building actually is. ... Many of the saints have the following concept of what the organic building up of the Body of Christ is. **Formerly** in our meetings, a certain brother was appointed to share a message, and another brother led us in the reading of the Scriptures. This practice was something formal and something arranged. Many of the saints think that to be organic is to be automatic and spontaneous. This means that we come together without any arrangement, without any schedule, and without any program. When we come together, a sister may suddenly call a hymn, and another sister may read to us a portion of the Word that she enjoyed in morning watch that day. Many of the saints feel that this spontaneous and automatic meeting is organic. If this is organic, however, all the shouting and excitement at sporting events, which are very spontaneous and automatic, are also organic. **To be merely automatic and spontaneous is not to be organic.** We need to drop this concept.

In order to **illustrate** the **organic building up** of the Body of Christ, let us consider the difference between a house and a tree. The house comes into existence by being built up, and the tree comes into being **by growing**, which is also a building up. Thirteen years ago the trees in my yard were small, but today they are big trees. **Organic things are built up by growing**. When a tree grows, the tree is being built up, and when a child grows, the child is being built up. For a man or a tree to be built up is organic. To build up a house, however, is not related to life, so that kind of building up is not organic.

The Body of Christ, like the tree, is organic. It is an **organism**. Anything that is organic is **built up by growing**. Just as a tree grows in life, we also need to grow in the divine life to be built up. The organic building up is actually the growing up. **The building up of the church is by the believers' growing in life**.

The Body of Christ is an **organism composed** of people who have the very God as the Spirit indwelling their spirit (2 Tim. 4:22; Rom. 8:16). This indwelling of God as the Spirit in our spirit is the mingling of God with us. The very source of life in the entire universe, which is God, is right now in our spirit. Due to this, **we are the organism of the Triune God**. (The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, Chapter 3, Section 1)

DAY 2

- D. If we would have the reality of the Body of Christ, we must **allow** Christ to **make His home in our hearts**; the reality of the Body is the inner experience of the indwelling Christ—Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:16; Col. 1:27; 3:4, 15.
- E. The Lord urgently **needs** the **reality** of the Body of Christ to be expressed in the local churches; unless there is a substantial expression of the Body, the Lord Jesus will not return—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 5:27, 30; Rev. 19:7.
- F. The Lord **needs** the overcomers **to carry out the economy of God** to have the Body of Christ and to destroy His enemy; without the overcomers the Body of Christ cannot be built up, and **unless the Body of Christ is built up, Christ cannot come back for His bride**—Eph. 1:10; 3:10; Rev. 12:11; 19:7-9.
- G. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion—the overcomers as the reality of the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem; in the church life we must endeavor to reach today's Zion—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:27; Rev. 14:1; 21:2.

DAY 3

III. God has blended the Body together (1 Cor. 12:24); the word *blended* means “adjusted,” “harmonized,” “tempered,” and “mingled,” implying the losing of distinctions:

- A. In order to be **blended** for the reality of the Body of Christ, we have to **go through the cross** and **be by the Spirit to dispense Christ** to others for the **building up** of the Body of Christ.
- B. **Blending** means that we should always stop in order to fellowship with others; we should not do anything without fellowshiping with the other saints who are coordinating with us, because fellowship adjusts us, harmonizes us, tempers us, and mingles us.
- C. A group of responsible brothers may meet together often without being **blended**; to be blended means that you are touched by others and that you are touching others by going through the cross, doing things by the Spirit, and doing everything to dispense Christ for His Body's sake.
- D. Such a **blending** is not social but the blending of the very Christ whom the individual members, the district churches, the co-workers, and the elders enjoy, experience, and partake of.
- E. The **blending** is **for the building up of the universal Body of Christ** (Eph. 1:23) to consummate the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2) as the final goal of God's economy according to His good pleasure (Eph. 3:8-10; 1:9-10).

The **way to be blended** is by much and thorough prayer, as **fine flour of the wheat**, with all the members of our group, with the Spirit as **the oil**, through the death of Christ as **the salt**, and in the resurrection of Christ as **the frankincense**. We need to pray over all these points with much and thorough prayer. **We need to be blended into a dough for the Lord**. Our becoming dough implies our being **broken**, our being **ground**, and our being **blended**. According to **the type of the meal offering** in Leviticus 2:1-13, to be blended requires the adding of oil so that the flour will not be dry. It is impossible to blend fine flour that is dry; oil is needed to make the flour moist. In the same way, **we need the Spirit as the oil** to “moisten” us so that we can be blended together.

To be blended together, **we also need the salt**, that is, **the death of Christ**, to kill all the germs within us. We need to realize that we have many germs in our being. All these germs need to be killed by the death of Christ. Then we also need to be in the resurrection of Christ. **In the blending we need to experience the Spirit as the oil, and we also need to pass through the experiences of the death of Christ and the resurrection of Christ**. If by the Lord's mercy we are able to experience such a blending, we will be absolutely different from what we are today. It is not enough just to put people together and call them a group. That can be done very quickly. The proper grouping with the blending of the members will take time. (Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups, Chapter 10, Section 2)

DAY 4

IV. We need to follow in the apostle's footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ; the apostle brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings in order that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ—Rom. 16:1-16, 21-23, 20.

Through the fellowship in the Body, the crushing of Satan, and the enjoyment of grace, we can carry out the mystery kept in silence in the times of the ages concerning the complete salvation of God in the fulfillment of the eternal economy of God for the Gentiles to have the obedience of faith unto glory to the only wise God through Jesus Christ (vv. 25-27).

We must have the **reality of the fellowship and blending of the Body of Christ**. Otherwise, regardless of how much we pursue and how simple and humble we are, sooner or later there will be problems, even divisions, among us. Hence, we must be governed by the vision of the Body and follow in the footsteps of the apostle by bringing all the saints in all the churches into the **blending life** of the entire Body of Christ. **This is to reign in life, and by such reigning, we give glory to God**. This glory is the New Jerusalem, the universal incorporation of the union and mingling of divinity with humanity, in which God will be completely glorified and His economy will be fully accomplished.

(The Experience of God's Organic Salvation Equaling Reigning in Christ's Life, Chapter 6, Section 4)

DAY 5

V. The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ:

- A. We need to be in the local churches as the procedure to be brought into the reality of the Body of Christ as the goal.
- B. The highest peak of the Lord's recovery that can really, practically, and actually carry out God's economy is for God to produce not many local churches in a physical way but an organic Body to be His **organism**.
- C. Paul's thought of the church being one bread (1 Cor. 10:17) was not his own invention; rather, it was taken from the Old Testament with the **meal offering** (Lev. 2:4); every part of the flour of the meal offering was mingled with the oil—that is the blending.
- D. Hardly anyone speaks about blending because this is not only very high and deep but also very mysterious; it is not a physical matter; the significance of our **blending is the reality of the Body of Christ**.

DAY 6

VI. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are genuine men but are not living by their life but by the life of the processed God, whose attributes have been expressed through their virtues.

VII. The reality of the Body of Christ is the mingling living in the eternal union of the regenerated, transformed, and glorified tripartite God-men with the Triune God in the resurrection of Christ:

- A. We use the word **mingling** because this living is still going on.
- B. Such a mingling living is in the resurrection of Christ, and the reality of this resurrection is the Spirit; this resurrection imparts the consummated God and releases the death-overcoming life into the believers.

VIII. This corporate and mingling living by the perfected God-men consummates ultimately in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth as God's increase and expression for eternity.

The reality of the Body of Christ is a kind of **corporate living**, not a living by any individual. This corporate living is the **aggregate** of many saints who have been redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, and transformed by the processed and consummated God within them. By this indwelling consummated God, these redeemed saints have been made actual God-men.

We know that God became a man to be a God-man. That little Jesus in the manger was a God-man, ... Who is He? He is God becoming a man, a real man. Yet this man would **not live by Himself**, by His own human life. Rather He **rejected** His human life. He **denied** Himself. He lived as a man by another life, by the life of God. He told us that whatever He did and whatever He spoke were not of Himself but of the Father who sent Him (John 14:10, 24). He was a real man living there, yet He was **dying** to His natural life. He was dying to live, **dying to His natural man to live by God's life**. That dying to His natural life is the cross, and His living by the divine life is in resurrection.

We should not live by ourselves. According to God's design in His economy, **we were already put on the cross**. We should not call ourselves back off the cross. **To remain on the cross is to bear the cross and be under the cross**. I have been crucified. There is no more I. I am finished. I am through. But there is a new man with me. That is the resurrected God-created man uplifted with God's divinity in him. That man is actually God Himself. Now I live by that man. But if I do not practice to keep my old man on the cross, I can never live the new man. This is why in the first chapter of Philippians, Paul tells us he lived such a life by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. (Practical Points Concerning Blending, Chapter 4, Sec. 3)