

Church in Regina Newsletter

Meeting Place: 3860 Buckingham Drive E, Regina, SK, Canada S4V 3A1

ECONOMY OF GOD

Economy is the anglicized form of the Greek word **oikonomia**, which occurs throughout the New Testament. Oikonomia is a compound noun composed of **oikos**, which means “house,” and **nomos**, which means “law.” Hence, economy denotes the law, administration, or management of the resources of a household (see Word Studies and Dictionary Definitions). Its original, now archaic usage referred to a system or plan needed by wealthy householders to dispense food and other necessities to all the members of the household. More generally, **economy refers to a plan or arrangement designed to carry out a certain purpose**. God is like an immensely wealthy householder. He desires to dispense His unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8) to all of His people, but to **accomplish this** immense task He needs a plan, an arrangement, an economy.

The Origination—God’s Good Pleasure

God’s economy is His plan to carry out His eternal purpose in order to satisfy His heart’s desire. Ephesians 1:5 speaks of “the good pleasure of His will,” revealing to us that God has a good pleasure, a heart’s delight, something that makes Him happy. God is neither impassive nor void of feeling. His heart burns with the longing to gain an expression among the human race that will forever satisfy Him. He was therefore willing to pay a tremendous price and, in Christ, undergo a costly process in order to pursue, attract, and win man for His economy. Thus, His attention is fixed and His heart set on the fulfillment of His economy.

The Way—God’s Dispensing

The crucial focus of God’s economy is **the dispensing of the Triune God into man**. The entire New Testament reveals that God’s unique desire is to dispense Himself into His chosen and redeemed people to be their life, their life supply, and everything to them (John 10:10b; Colossians 3:4; 2 Corinthians 12:9). God carries out this dispensing in and through Himself as the Divine Trinity. God the Father is the Source, the Originator of the divine dispensing; God the Son is its course and means, the One through whom this dispensing is accomplished; and God the Spirit is the instrument and sphere in whom God’s dispensing is realized and conveyed to man.

The Steps—Christ’s Person and Work

In God’s economy, Christ is everything. His person and work constitute the center as well as the circumference of the entire sphere of divine activity in the economy of God. According to Ephesians 3:11, God initially made His eternal purpose **in** Christ Jesus. Then, **in** the realm of time Christ accomplished God’s economy through the processes of His incarnation, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Process

Incarnation
Human Living
Crucifixion

Resurrection

Ascension

Accomplishments

Bringing the infinite God into the finite man (John 1:1, 14; Colossians 2:9)
Expressing the bountiful God in His rich attributes through Christ’s human virtues (Luke 7:13-16)
Redeeming all the things created by God and fallen in sin (Colossians 1:20)
Terminating all things of the old creation (Romans 6:6) Releasing the divine life (John 12:24)
Being begotten as the Firstborn Son of God (Acts 13:33; Romans 8:29)
Becoming the life-giving Spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45b)
Regenerating all the believers (1 Peter 1:3)
Being inaugurated to be the Lord of all (Acts 2:36)
Pouring out the Spirit of power upon His believers (Acts 2:2-4)

Now as the incarnated, resurrected, and ascended “God-man,” Christ is on the throne of God in the heavens (Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 22:1) administering the universe to carry out God’s economy. Furthermore, He dwells within all of His believers, rendering them life and grace (2 Corinthians 13:5; 12:9) for their full salvation and growth in the divine life unto maturity.

The Experience—Enjoying the Divine Dispensing

The believers’ experience of God’s economy has everything to do with receiving and enjoying the dispensing of the riches of the divine life and nature (2 Peter 1:4). Surprisingly, the New Testament does not direct us to improve our outward behavior; rather, it charges us to **receive** the Holy Spirit as our breath (John 20:22), **drink** the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13), and **eat** Christ (John 6:57). Such enjoyment of Christ in this way causes us to grow in the divine life (1 Peter 2:2), thereby gradually transforming us into His image (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Goal—the Ultimate Consummation

The goal of God’s economy is to have many believers who are fully **transformed** by Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18) and **conformed** to His glorious image (Romans 8:29). Together, these believers constitute the church, the Body of Christ in the present age (Ephesians 1:22b-23; Colossians 1:18). Ultimately, God’s economy will consummate in the New Jerusalem, which will exist throughout eternity as the complete **expression of the Triune God in humanity**. (<http://www.godseconomy.org/summary/index.html>)

Church Address:

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Contact Numbers:

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Meeting Schedule:

Lord’s Table Meeting

Lord’s Day
10:00AM to 12:00PM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Saints Homes
8:00PM to 9:00PM

YP Meeting

Fridays
7:00PM to 9:00PM
Brother Hedrick’s Place

Small/Home Meeting

Friday Evening
Saint’s Home

Seven Annual Feasts

1. International Chinese-speaking Conference, Anaheim, CA February 12-14, 2016
2. International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (Spring) Anaheim, CA - April 8-10, 2016
3. Memorial Day Conference Washington, DC May 27-30, 2016
4. Summer Training Anaheim, CA - July 4-9, 2016
5. International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (Fall) Gold Coast, Australia - October 6-8, 2016
6. Thanksgiving Conference San Jose, CA - November 24-27, 2016
7. Winter Training Anaheim, CA - December 26-31, 2016

Upcoming Activities

- ▶ April 17, 2016 - Churching in Saskatoon
- ▶ April 29 - May 01, 2016 - Conference in Winnipeg and Edmonton
- ▶ May 08, 2016 - Love Feast
- ▶ May 23, 2016 - Church Pursuit, Experience of Life Message 4

PRAYER BURDEN

1. Lord, we praise You for revealing the **genuine oneness** of the organic Body of Christ which is “the mingling of the Triune God with His redeemed and transformed people”. Lord infuse in us Your heart **desire**, Your **aspiration** of oneness in the Triune God.

2. Lord, cause us to be one in the **Father's name**, by the divine life as the **source** of the genuine oneness and with the divine nature as the **element** of this oneness.

3. Lord, we would like to be in this oneness through sanctification by the reality of the **word**, which is the **truth sanctifying** us from the world and **keeping** us from the ruler of the world, the evil one. Lord, continue to separate us from being mixed with the world.

4. Lord, we also would like to **keep** the genuine oneness and **declare** that we are one in the **divine glory** to express You in the church as Your one Body, as Your one family, as Your one wife and Your kingdom.

5. Lord, preserve us to **keep the oneness** in a **practical way** in lowliness, meekness, long-suffering, bearing one another in love, and in the uniting bond of peace. Lord we need You to **adjust us** in our attitude, to be careful in our attitude so that the enemy cannot utilize it to attack the church.

6. Lord, deliver us from our individualism to see the Body, and be **Body-conscious**, to **live** in the Body, to **receive** supply from the Body and **treasure** every member of the Body.

7. Please pray for the church in **Regina**:

- For the shepherding and perfecting work in the church.
- For the gaining of new ones and recovery of dormant saints, who can be infused with the vision of God's economy.
- For the strengthening of the **church life** through **shepherding and cherishing, perfecting and nourishing, prophesying and building**.

“Each one of us members has our own place in the Body of Christ. It is assigned by God, and should be accepted by us”

This Weeks's Pursuit: The Crucial Points of the Major Items of the Lord's Recovery Today

The Oneness of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: John 17:21-22; Eph. 4:1-6; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 12:15-22; 2 Cor. 10:13-15

I. Because it is difficult for us to understand the oneness unfolded in the Scriptures, the Lord Jesus prayed in John 17 about the oneness instead of speaking about it as the continuation of His discourse to His disciples.

The Triune God is one, and that oneness is a model of the oneness of the Body of Christ. The base of our oneness is the oneness for which the Lord prayed; in the **Father's name** by the eternal life, in the Triune God through sanctification **by the holy word**, in the **divine glory** for the expression of the Triune God.

II. We need to see the uniqueness of the Body of Christ— there is one Body in the universe—Eph. 4:1-6; 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 5:23-25; 2:15; Col. 3:11; 1 Cor. 12:12.

III. The practice of the oneness is the one accord; the one accord is the master key to every blessing in the New Testament—Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 15:25; Rom. 15:6.

IV. Five phrases in Ephesians 4:1-3 give us a practical way to keep the oneness of the Spirit (the oneness of the Body of Christ), which is to practice the one accord: lowliness, meekness, long-suffering, bearing one another in love, and the uniting bond of peace these five items are a test to us in the practice of the church life; by this test we can see whether or not we are practically in the church life:

We should not set up a high standard for others, but in **lowliness** we should love the weaker ones. As long as we take something other than Christ Himself as our standard, we do not have lowliness; if we put forth a high standard, we are not lowly in our mind and attitude.

We must sacrifice ourselves to be meek in our attitude. **Meekness** is a matter of an unselfish attitude that is mild and gentle, **never argues for oneself**, and **never makes an excuse for oneself**. In order to be meek, we must sacrifice ourselves, regardless of how we are treated; in the church life we must not have a harsh, hard, or cruel attitude.

To be **long-suffering** is to endure mistreatment; to be long-suffering is mainly related to our spoken word. A brother may wrong us, but for the Lord's glory and for the sake of the church life, we should **not speak a word** about it; to utter, express, and talk about everything that happens to us requires no long-suffering or patience.

In order to **bear one another in love**, we need to fight against suspicion and fear in the church life. Instead of suspicion and fear, we should have only love; love should prevail in the church life; love is the most excellent way for us to be anything or do anything in the church life.

We need to be **diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit** in the **uniting bond of peace**. If we have peace only with God and not with all the brothers, we have lost the church life; the church life is tested by the peace we have, not only vertically with God but also horizontally with all the brothers.

V. If we hold Christ as the Head (acknowledging that only He is the Head and coming absolutely under His authority), we cannot have different interpretations of Scripture—1 Tim. 1:3-4; Col. 2:19:

Christ is the unique authority in the Body; the place of all the members is to hold the Head and to acknowledge Him as the unique and supreme authority in all things.

VI. We should always consider the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, and do what is best for the Body—1 Cor. 12:12-27.

VII. “When Brother Nee taught about the Body, he said that with whatever we do, we have to consider how the churches would feel about it” (The Problems Causing the Turmoils in the Church Life, pp. 28-29).

VIII. In the Body there can be no independence or individualism, for we are members, and members cannot live in detachment from the Body—v. 27; Rom. 12:5; Eph. 5:30:

Wherever there is Body-revelation, there is Body-consciousness, and wherever there is Body-consciousness, individualistic thought and action are ruled out. What I do not know, another member of the Body will know; what I cannot see, another member of the Body will see; what I cannot do, another member of the Body will do.

IX. As members of the Body, we must allow ourselves to be limited by the other members, not going beyond our measure:

God has placed all the members in the Body, even as He willed. The Head sets us in our special place in the Body and points us to our special function. Each one of us members has our own place in the Body of Christ; it is assigned by God and should be accepted by us. Since such an assignment is according to God's will, every member is necessary; every member has a definite place, a definite assignment, and a particular portion with which he serves the Body of Christ. Each member has his own characteristics and his own capability; these characteristics constitute the place, position, or ministry of each member. A basic requirement for the growth and development of the Body is that we recognize our measure and do not go beyond it.

WEEK	LORD'S TABLE MEETING	PRAYER MEETING	YP MEETING	HOME MEETING	OFFERING
April 03 - April 09, 2016	21	12	11	7	\$500.00
April 10 - April 16, 2016	21	11	12	6	\$220.00