

The Intrinsic Building Up of the Organic Body of Christ (2) – The Revelation and Building Up of the Body of Christ in Ephesians

I would like to ask a question: What is the top revelation in the Holy Word? We know that the Bible has sixty-six books and that they were written over a period of at least sixteen hundred years. These sixty-six books cover a lot of things from eternity past to eternity future. They cover creation, salvation, and many other things. Bible students and Bible teachers have picked up a lot of subjects from the Bible, but we all have to see that the Body is the top point. Among all the thousands of words in the Bible, the Body should stand out to us. The biggest word in the Bible is the **Body**. (*Excerpt from Perfecting Training, Chapter 23*)

Ephesians 1 – the dispensing of the Divine Trinity for the Body

Paul prayed that the Father of glory “*may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation*” (Eph. 1:17). The spirit here is our regenerated spirit indwelt by the Spirit of God. It is necessary for you to **see the Body**, but you could never see the Body unless you are in the spirit. If you do not have the vision in your spirit, if you do not have a spirit of revelation, a seeing spirit, you could not see the Body. If your eyes do not have sight, you could not distinguish one color from another, and you could not view the scenery. The Body of Christ is something different from all the scenes we could see, something different from all the colors we could see naturally. It is a heavenly vision. Therefore, we need a spirit of revelation, a spirit of seeing, a seeing spirit, to see the Body... What we need is a spirit transparent to see, a spirit of **revelation**, a seeing spirit to see the Body. The spirit of revelation to see the Body is the first point concerning our spirit in this book on the church. (*Excerpt from To Serve in the Human Spirit, Chapter 3*)

Ephesians 2 – the Body of Christ is the new man

We may say that the book of Ephesians is a biblical lexicon, for it contains many new terms. One of these new terms is “the **new man**.” In Ephesians 2 we see that **The Body is the new man**. Ephesians 2:15 and 16 put the Body with the new man, telling us that the new man is the Body and that The Body is the new man. In order to create this **new man and to produce this Body**, Christ abolished on the cross all ordinances, rituals, and different ways of living. Both the Jewish manner of life and the Gentile way of life have been abolished by Christ on the cross in order to create the one new man, the Body of Christ. In order for the Body to come into being, all the ordinances had to be done away with. All the different ways of living—Jewish, British, American, Brazilian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino—must go... In New York there is a group of Chinese Christians who emphasize the fact that in their meetings they have a Chinese flavor. This is not the Body; it is a Chinese sect. Likewise, if we insist upon having an American flavor, we are an American sect, not the Body. In the Body there is no Jew or Greek, bond or free, but Christ is all in all. (*Excerpt from The Spirit and the Body, Chapter 12*)

Ephesians 3 – the Body is the fullness of the Triune God

It is important to know why The Body of Christ is called the **fullness**. The Body of a person is simply the fullness of that person, and this fullness is his expression. As I speak, I move with my body. In this way, my being is expressed through my body. Likewise, the church is The Body of Christ, and **this Body is the fullness of Him who fills all in all**. How profound this is! As the One who fills all in all, Christ is exceedingly great. Such a great Person needs a great Body. This Body is the church. Hence, the church is The Body of Christ, His fullness.

The riches of Christ may be likened to all the rich foodstuffs produced in America. These riches are not for exhibition; they are for eating. As we eat of the rich American foodstuffs, these riches seem to disappear into us. When these riches are digested and assimilated by us, they become part of us. As a result, they are no longer the riches, but the fullness. Thus, the husky young American men, who assimilate so much of the rich American foodstuffs, are the fullness of America. By means of this illustration we can differentiate between the riches and the fullness. The riches are the food which has not yet been taken into us. But when the food is eaten, digested, and assimilated, it becomes the fullness. The riches of Christ are all the items of what Christ is. When we digest and assimilate into our being the riches of Christ, these riches become part of us, and we become the fullness of Christ. Thus, the church is The Body of Christ, the fullness of the universally great Person who fills all in all. This is the first item or aspect of what the church is. *(Excerpt from the Life-Study of Ephesians, Chapter 1)*

Ephesians 4 – the Body of Christ produced by one ministry

During the New Testament age, God's unique intention is to build up The Body. God created the universe, formed man, and accomplished redemption all for this. For this one purpose, God has **one ministry**. God does not have two operations in this New Testament age; **He has one operation with one ministry**. The ministry in the New Testament economy is a corporate ministry, a ministry that includes thousands of gifted people. Therefore, in 2 Corinthians 4:1 Paul said, "We have this ministry." Paul did not say, "I have this ministry," nor, "We have these ministries"; he said, "We have this ministry." Paul, his co-workers, and the other apostles all had this ministry, **the one ministry in the New Testament**. *(Excerpt from Truth Messages, Chapter 4)*

Ephesians 5 – the children of light to be the bride of Christ

Eventually, these believers will become the Bride Of Christ. In chapter four we have the new man for the accomplishment of God's purpose. The new man needs grace and truth. But in chapter five we have a loving Bride for the satisfaction of the Husband. **The Bride needs love and light**. Hence, grace and truth are for the new man to accomplish God's eternal purpose, but love and light are for the Bride to satisfy Christ as the Husband. If we have this view of Ephesians 5, we shall see where the church should be and what the church should be like. The church should be a group of children of light walking in love. Eventually, **such a people will become the Bride** for the satisfaction of Christ the Husband. All this is through the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity into our being. *(Excerpt from The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity, Chapter 19)*

Ephesians 6 – the Body is the corporate warrior

Not only is the church the Body, the new man, the Bride, the family, the kingdom, and the dwelling place; the church is also the warrior to fight against God's enemy. God's enemy, Satan, is terrified of such a church. Satan is not afraid of individualistic Christians, not even if they number in the thousands. But whenever the believers come together as the church in the aspect of the Body and in these other aspects, Satan trembles. By the church in these seven aspects Christ is expressed, the Father has rest, and the enemy is defeated. May we all see the vision that the church is not a matter of individual holiness or spirituality. On the contrary, **it is a matter of being built up together as** the Body, the new man, the Bride, the family, the kingdom, the dwelling place, and **the warrior**. As such a church, we defeat the enemy and prepare the way for the Lord Jesus to come back. *(Excerpt from the Seven Aspects of the Church, chapter 1)*