

LIVING IN THE RESURRECTION LIFE OF CHRIST UNDER THE UNIQUE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST AND GROWING UP INTO THE HEAD, CHRIST, IN ALL THINGS FOR THE REALITY AND BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Living In The Resurrection Life Of Christ Under The Unique Headship Of Christ

The principle of resurrection is that the natural life is killed and that the divine life **ris**es up in its place (2 Cor. 1:9). **This is the law of the Body in the church life**. When we come into the church, consecrate to the Lord, and clear our past, situations will inevitably **arise** without explanation. This is the process of resurrection. No one is exempt from this process. This has to be worked out in all the members of the Body; none of us is alone in this process. There are those who have been in this process before we were born humanly. These older ones will care for us, pray for us, shepherd us, and fight for us. They will have compassion on us, but they will not pity us. Any pitying of ourselves is in the self.

They will help us repeatedly pass through the cycle of death and resurrection. In the course of such a process, we will make **a glorious discovery**. Song of Songs 8:6-7 says, *"Set me as a seal on your heart, / As a seal on your arm; / For love is as strong as death, / Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol; / Its flashes are the flashes of fire, / A flame of Jehovah. / Many waters cannot quench love, / Nor do floods drown it. / If a man gave all the substance of his house for love, / It would be utterly despised."* Thus, no matter what we are passing through, the love of Christ for the church will conquer everything. Nevertheless, we need to know such **a process of resurrection**. The church is not a happy place where we have enjoyment in a soulish way. Some have this concept of the church life. On the contrary, **we are under the principle of resurrection**.

We may be in the local church life practically, but we **may not** be in resurrection. No one in the church will monitor our level of resurrection and prevent us from being in the meetings of the church if we do not meet that requirement. Nevertheless, **resurrection is a law** in the Body of Christ. The Body is in the new creation and does not allow anything natural. The immune system of the Body rejects everything natural and everyone in their natural life.

Growing Up Into The Head In All Things

In our physical body, every member of the body is related to the head through the central nervous system. When we wave our hand, it is by the head directing our arm and hand to be lifted up to wave. Likewise, each one of us is directly under the **headship** of Christ in the Body. What **the Head** leads us to do comes from Him, but **what we do** is carried out in, with, through, and by the Body.

The Head is a matter of authority; for Christ to be the Head is for Him to have all the authority in the Body (Col. 1:18. Matthew 28:18 says, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth"*. This implies that no authority has been given to us. **None of us** has any authority. Authority may flow through us and we may represent His authority as a deputy, but we have no authority because **all authority is in the Head**.

The authority to direct the Body and all its members rests with the Head. We need to learn to not control or direct anyone. We may offer sincere fellowship, but that is not directing, and it does not obligate the saints; it is merely our fellowship.

Whether we are under the authority of the Head determines whether we know the life of the Body. We cannot know the life of the Body if we do not know the Head and honor the Head and live according to the direction of the Head. The Body can have only **one Head** and can submit only to **one Head**. In the Body there is no hierarchy, no pope; there are no archbishops, no bishops, no priests, and no laypeople. Any system of hierarchy comes from the large tree in the Lord's parable in Matthew 13:32. We all are simply members; only Christ is the Head. We need to realize this and to live this way.

Christ is the unique Head, and we must submit to Him, honoring and testifying to the unique headship of Christ. Feminists are enraged that the head of the woman is man. That is the **view of the world**. Nevertheless, the head of every man is Christ. A husband should be the head by taking the lead to live under the headship of Christ and to respect his wife not only as a spouse but also as a member of the Body. A husband and wife live together under Christ's headship in love. One definition of marriage life is **a life of intimate mutuality in love under the headship of Christ**. Likewise, our marriage to the Lord should also be a life of intimate mutuality in love. We need to be clear that the Lord, our Husband, is the Head. He has the Godhead, and we are married to the Lamb, the redeeming God. Our Husband is the Lamb.

The reality of the Body of Christ is a living by all the God-men, united, mingled, and constituted together with God by mingling humanity with divinity and mingling divinity with humanity (John 14:20). Eventually, the Lord will give us simple prayers such as: *"Lord, mingle Yourself with me today for the Body. Lord, grow in me and express Your attributes through my human virtues so that I could be part of the corporate living that is the reality of the Body."* If this does not become our experience, the Lord will have to either wait or find others who will allow Him to work out all that is being presented here. The crucial thing is that **we present ourselves to Him** and allow Him to do whatever is in His heart concerning us and to do it for the Body. We need to be mingled because that is the nature of the church. Now we see that the reality of the Body is **the corporate living with God by those who are mingled with God**.

The Lord may take a step in this corporate living by gaining ground in many saints in a locality, but there are times when the whole church has such an experience corporately. Some years ago, one church suffered the indescribable loss of more than one brother, but there was the power of **resurrection** operating. The church passed through that experience and is in another stage now. The Lord may allow the same thing to happen in any locality so that He could gain a corporate living of conformity to the death of Christ. Are we willing to be part of this? If so, we do not need to try to make anything happen or promise to live such a life; instead, we should simply **place ourselves in the Lord's hands** and say, *"Lord, I choose to be part of this because I want You to have the reality of the Body of Christ today."*

For the Reality And Building Up Of The Body Of Christ

What we pray for is an indicator of what we care about and of what matters to us. Since the beginning of this year, how often **have we prayed for the growth of the Body**? How often we prayed for the Body to build up itself in love? The church will build up itself by the growth in life. How he needs our cooperation in this crucial matter. He needs more and more co-workers and elders to speak the same way, and He needs more mature sisters to come to the Lord to pray under His leading for the growth of the Body...May we in our daily exercise **continue to pray** for the growth of the Body throughout the earth, throughout the Lord's recovery, in every church, and in every saint. The growth of the Body is the building up of the Body. *(Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word)*