

**THE ALL-INCLUSIVE, EXTENSIVE CHRIST
REPLACING CULTURE FOR THE ONE NEW MAN, Week 5**

KEY STATEMENTS

The Christ who replaces our culture with Himself for the one new man is the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, the preeminent One,
the centrality and universality of God's economy.

When we have the vision of the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, experience Him as our life and the constituent of our entire being,
and live Him instead of our culture, the one new man will appear among us in a practical way, and we will realize the life of the new man.

We need to be renewed day by day with the fresh supply of the resurrection life to replace our culture and to become the one new man in reality by becoming as new as the New Jerusalem.

Living the Life of the One New Man instead of Our Culture by Learning Christ as the Reality Is in Jesus

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:20-21; Matt. 11:28-30; 14:19; John 5:19, 30; 7:18; 10:30

Ephesians 4:20 But you did not so **learn Christ**,

Ephesians 4:21 If indeed you have **heard Him** and have been **taught in Him** as the **reality is in Jesus**,

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:29 **Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me**, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Matthew 14:19 And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The **Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing**, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because **I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me**.

John 7:18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who **seeks the glory of Him who sent Him**, this One is true, and unrighteousness is not in Him.

John 10:30 **I and the Father are one**.

Learning Christ

Christ is not only life to us, but also an example. **We learn from Him according to His example**, not by our natural life, but by Him as our life. According to the New Testament, the Lord Jesus did not come into us as life directly. Rather, after living on earth for thirty years, He ministered for another three and a half years. During the thirty-three and a half years of His life on earth, **He set up a pattern**, a mold, a model. This is a matter of great significance. One reason the four Gospels were written was to show the **pattern of the life that God desires**, the **mold of the life that can satisfy God and fulfill His purpose**. For this reason, the New Testament gives us a unique biography, the biography of the Lord Jesus, written from four directions. After the Lord Jesus set up the pattern revealed in the Gospels, He was crucified on the cross and then He entered into resurrection. It is in resurrection that He comes into us to be our life. (*Life-Study of Ephesians, chapter 46*)

Day 1

I. Our standard of living must not be according to our culture but according to the reality in Jesus, the reality lived out by the Lord Jesus when He was on earth-Eph. 4:20-21:

- A. The way the Lord Jesus lived on earth is the way the one new man should live today- Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:57; 4:34; 5:17, 19, 30; 6:38; 17:4.
- B. The reality is in Jesus (Eph. 4:21) refers to the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels; Jesus lived a life in which He did everything in God, with God, and for God; God was in His living, and He was one with God.

Day 2

- C. Jesus lived in a way that always corresponded to God's righteousness and holiness; in the life of Jesus the righteousness and holiness of the reality were always exhibited- v. 24:
 1. The human living of Jesus was according to the reality, that is, according to God Himself, full of righteousness and holiness.
 2. It was in the righteousness and holiness of this reality-God glorified and expressed-that the new man was created.
- D. We need to learn Christ and be taught in Him to live a life of reality; to learn Christ is simply to be molded into the pattern of Christ, that is, to be conformed to the image of Christ-vv. 20-21; Rom. 8:28-29; 2 John 1; John 4:23-24.
- E. As a corporate person, the new man should live a life of reality, as the reality is in Jesus-a life of expressing God.
- F. If we live according to the spirit of our mind, we shall have the daily living of the corporate new man-a living that corresponds to the reality in Jesus-Eph. 4:23.

A Living of Learning Christ

In verses 25 through 32 we have a description of the practical daily life in the learning of Christ. In covering the daily life of learning Christ, Paul goes into a lot of detail. He mentions things such as anger, stealing, bitterness, wrath, clamor, evil speaking, malice, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness. Although these details are easy to see, it is more difficult to discern two important matters that Paul's speaking is based upon. These matters are truth and grace. The apostle's exhortation in verses 17 through 32 takes truth and grace as its basic elements. He wants us to live as Jesus did, a life full of grace and truth. **Grace** is God given to us for our enjoyment, and **truth** is God revealed to us as our reality. When we live and speak truth, we express God as our reality, and others receive God as grace for their enjoyment.

Paul says that we learn Christ as the truth is in Jesus. The pattern, the mold, set up by the Lord Jesus is the truth. The truth is the principle, the principle is the pattern, and the pattern is a matter of having put off the old man and of having put on the new man. In verses 17 through 24 we have the principle of our renewed daily living for the learning of Christ. This principle is the truth, the living of the Lord Jesus when He was on earth. The Lord's living was that of always putting off His own life and of putting on the Father's life. This is the life of Jesus, and this life is the truth that is the principle of a life of learning Christ. According to this principle, we have put off the old man and have put on the new man. (*Life-Study of Ephesians, chapter 48*)

Day 3

II. The living of the one new man should be exactly the same as the living of Jesus; for the one new man as the corporate God-man, we need to live the life of a God-man-Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:10; Eph. 4:20-21; cf. 1 John 4:17 and footnote 5:

- A. Christ's human living was man living God to express the attributes of God in the human virtues; His human virtues were filled, mingled, and saturated with the divine attributes-Luke 1:26-35; 7:11-17; 10:25-37; 19:1-10:
 1. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, though He was a man, He lived by God-John 6:57; 5:19, 30; 6:38; 8:28; 7:16-17.

2. The Lord Jesus lived God and expressed God in everything; **whatever He did was God's doing from within Him and through Him**-14:10.
3. The Gospel of Mark reveals that the life the Lord Jesus lived was absolutely **according to and for God's New Testament economy**.

Day 4

- B. As the expansion, increase, reproduction, and continuation of the first God-man, **we should live the same kind of life He lived**-1 John 2:6:
1. The Lord's God-man living **set up a model for our God-man living**-being crucified to live that God might be expressed in humanity-Gal. 2:20.
 2. We need to **deny ourselves**, be **conformed to Christ's death**, and **magnify Him** by the bountiful supply of His Spirit-Matt. 16:24; Phil. 3:10; 1:19-21a.
 3. We must **reject self-cultivation** and **condemn the building up of the natural man**; we need to realize that the Christian virtues are related essentially to the divine life, to the divine nature, and to God Himself-Gal. 5:22-23.
 4. The One who lived the life of a God-man is now the **Spirit living in us and through us**; we should not allow anything other than this One to fill us and occupy us- 2 Cor. 3:17; 13:5; Eph. 3:16-19.
 5. We need to **open our entire being to the Lord** to receive (in a spirit and atmosphere of prayer) His charge to us in Luke 6:36: "Be full of compassion, even as your Father also is full of compassion"; we need to contact the Lord as the compassionate One every morning-Lam. 3:22-23; Rom. 9:15 and footnote 2; Exo. 34:6; Psa. 103:8; Luke 1:78-79; 10:25-37; Rom. 12:1.

The Living of a Genuine Man, but Not by Man's Life to Express Man in Man's Virtues

Let us now go on to consider the Man-Savior's God-man living. This is the **living of a genuine man**, but not by man's life—man's mind, will, and emotion—to express man in man's virtues.

Two verses from the Gospel of John are helpful in understanding this. In John 5:30 the Lord Jesus says, "*I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*" In John 6:38 He goes on to say, "*I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*" In these verses we see that the **Lord Jesus did not do or seek His own will**.

In a very real sense, our will represents our whole being. Yes, in one sense our being is represented by our mind. The mind, however, represents our being only in thought; the will represents our being, or our soul, in its doings. You may have thought about many things, but how many of those things have you done? Perhaps out of a hundred matters we have thought, only two have been accomplished. The point we are making here is that **our mind represents our being in thought**, and **our will represents our being in action**, in deeds.

The fact that the Lord Jesus did not seek or do His own will indicates that while He was living as a man, **He was not living by His own mind, will, and emotion**. This means that He was not living by His own life. Here "life" equals our being, and our being is composed of our mind, will, and emotion. The Man-Savior, the God-man, lived as a man, but He did not live by His own mind, will, and emotion. (*Life-Study of Luke, chapter 61*)

Day 5

III. In the performing of the miracle of feeding five thousand people with five loaves and two fish, the Lord trained His disciples to **learn from Him**-Matt. 14:14-21; 11:28-30:

- A. Matthew 14:19 says that He took the five loaves and the two fish, and when He was going to bless them, **He looked up to heaven**:
1. Looking up to heaven indicates that **He was looking up to His source, His Father in heaven**:
 - a. This indicates that He realized the source of the blessing was not Him; the **Father as the sending One**, not the sent One, **should be the source of blessing**- cf. Rom. 11:36.
 - b. Regardless of how much we can do or how much we know what to do, we must realize that we need the **Sender's blessing upon our doing** so that we can be channels of supply by trusting in Him, not in ourselves-cf. Matt. 14:19b; Num. 6:22-27.

2. His looking up to the Father in heaven indicated that as the Son on earth sent by the Father in heaven, **He was one with the Father, trusting in the Father**-John 10:30:
 - a. What we know and what we can do mean nothing; **being one with the Lord and trusting in Him mean everything in our ministry**-cf. 1 Cor. 2:3-4.
 - b. The blessing comes only by our **being one with the Lord and trusting in Him**- cf. 2 Cor. 1:8-9.
3. The Lord **did not do anything from Himself**-John 5:19; cf. Matt. 16:24:
 - a. We should deny ourselves and not have the intention of doing anything from ourselves but **have the intention of doing everything from Him**.
 - b. We need to **continually exercise our spirit** to reject the self and live by another life by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ-Phil. 1:19-21a.
4. The Lord did not seek His own will but the **will of Him who sent Him**-John 5:30b; 6:38; Matt. 26:39, 42:
 - a. He rejected His idea, His intention, and His purpose.
 - b. All of us should be on the alert for this one thing-when we are sent to do some work, we should not take that chance to seek our own goal; we should just go **seeking the idea, purpose, aim, goal, and intention of our sending Lord**- cf. 1 Tim. 5:2b.

Day 6

5. The Lord did not seek His own glory but the **glory of the Father who sent Him**- John 7:18; 5:41; cf. 12:43:
 - a. To be **ambitious** is to seek your own glory-cf. 3 John 9.
 - b. We need to see that **our self, our purpose, and our ambition** are three big destroying "worms" in our work; we must learn to hate them.
- B. If we are going to be used for the Lord always in His recovery, **our self has to be denied**, our purpose has to be **rejected**, and our **ambition must be given up** for the sake of the one new man-Matt. 16:24.

Training His Disciples to Learn from Him in the Miracle of Feeding Five Thousand People

Taking the Five Loaves and Two Fish, Looking Up to Heaven, and Blessing Them

In the performing of the miracle of feeding five thousand people with five loaves and two fish, He trained His disciples to **learn from Him**. In Matthew 11:29 the Lord told the disciples that they needed to learn from Him, indicating that **He was their pattern**.

Matthew 14:19 says that He took the five loaves and two fish and when He was going to bless them, He looked up to heaven. In other words, He blessed the food by looking up to heaven. *Looking up to heaven* indicates that He was looking up to His Father in heaven. This indicates that He realized the source of the blessing was not Him. He was the sent One. The sent One should not be the source of blessing. **The sending One, the Father, should be the source of blessing**.

Here is a great lesson for us to learn. Most readers of the Bible would pay attention to the miracle of creating something from nothing performed by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 14. But we need to see the pattern that the Lord set up for us here. We need to remember that He looked up to the Father in heaven and blessed the five loaves and two fish in front of His disciples. After His blessing in this way, He told the disciples what to do. No doubt, what He did was a pattern for the disciples to learn from Him. According to this pattern, we have to realize that **we are not the Sender but the ones sent by the Sender**. Regardless of how much we can do, we should realize that **we still need the blessing from the source, from our Sender**, that we can pass on to the benefited ones. This is a big lesson that I want to stress.

A co-worker who is invited to speak somewhere may think that since he has been speaking for the Lord for many years, he knows how to speak. All of us need to drop this kind of attitude and realize that we are not the source. No blessing is of us. Regardless of how much we can do or how much we know what to do, **we must realize that we need the Sender's blessing upon our doing by trusting in Him, not in ourselves**. Even when we take our meals, we should learn of the Lord to look up to the Father as the source. When we bless our food, we should bless it by looking up to the source of blessing. (*The God-man Living, chapter 14*)