

VITAL FACTORS FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE CHURCH LIFE, Week 7

The Factor of Blending for the Reality of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:24, 31b; 13:1-8a; 10:17; Lev. 2:4; Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:16

Romans 12:5 So **we who are many are one Body in Christ**, and **individually members one of another**.

1 Corinthians 6:17 But he who is **joined to the Lord is one spirit**.

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 12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:2 And if I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3 And if I dole out all my possessions to feed others, and if I deliver up my body that I may boast, but do not have love, I profit nothing.

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.

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**.

What is the significance of our blending? It is not an organization of any nature. The first stanza of Hymns, #541 says, "Not the law of letters, / But the Christ of life." Then stanza 4 says, "Not religion, even / Christianity, / Can fulfill God's purpose / Or economy." Our blending has nothing to do with the dead letter, any religion, or anything of Christianity. **The significance of our blending is the reality of the Body of Christ**. This reality is nothing but the **group of God's redeemed who have all been made God, the God-men, by God**. They live a life not by themselves but by another life, which is within them. This other life is the Triune God processed and consummated to enter into them and to take them as His abode, His dwelling place.

Ephesians 3:17 tells us that Christ is now making His home in our hearts. In John 14:23 the Lord said, "*If anyone loves Me...My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.*" This word make is not a small word. To make is to build. The only way to make a home is by building. This building is not by anything physical but by the spiritual element and spiritual essence of the Divine Trinity. This building actually is a kind of **organic constitution**. The reality of the Body of Christ is a living by all the God-men **united, joined, and constituted together** with God by **mingling humanity with divinity and divinity with humanity**. (*Practical Points concerning Blending, chapter 3*)

Day 1

Romans 12:4-5 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

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:

- A. The completing ministry of the apostle Paul is altogether focused on the Body of Christ— in particular, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, and Colossians; the Body is the ultimate item of God's continual working, so the **Body is the top point of God's entire revelation**—Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 18-22; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 3:6; 4:4, 12, 15-16; 5:23, 30; Col. 1:18, 24; 2:19; 3:15.
- B. Romans 12 speaks of the Body from the angle of the **organic union**; verse 5 says, "We who are many are one Body in Christ":
 1. Two words from this verse indicate the organic union—**in Christ**; "in Christ" is a matter of the organic union—cf. John 3:16; Rom. 6:3-6; 11:17, 19; 16:7-10; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 2:17; 5:17; 12:2; Gal. 3:27.
 2. We are **one Body in Christ**, having an organic union with Him; this union makes us **one in life with Him and with all the other members of His Body**; when we remain in this organic union, we are actually living in the Body of Christ—Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22; Rom. 8:4-6.
 3. The actuality of the Body of Christ is in our **remaining** in the organic union with Christ; John 15:1-11 reveals that Christ is the true vine and that we are His branches; as the branches of Christ, we must abide in Him, which simply means to **remain in our organic union with Christ**—vv. 4-5; cf. 8:31; 15:7.

Day 2

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

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.

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. **Love covers and builds up**, so love is the most excellent way for us to be anything and to do anything for the building up of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 8:1b; 12:31b; 13:1-8a, 13.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.

Day 3

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

III. 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:

- A. As the highlight and beauty of the holy city, Jerusalem, **Zion** typifies the **overcomers** as the **high peak**, the **center**, the **uplifting**, the **strengthening**, the **enriching**, the **beauty**, and the **reality of the church**—Psa. 48:2, 11-12; 50:2; 20:2; 53:6a; 87:2.
- B. **Jerusalem** typifies the **whole body of the church**, while **Zion** typifies the **overcomers of the church**; every time the Old Testament speaks of the relationship between Zion and Jerusalem, it shows us that the characteristics, the life, the blessing, and the establishment of Jerusalem **come from Zion**—1 Kings 8:1; Psa. 51:18; 102:21; 128:5; 135:21; Isa. 41:27; Joel 3:17.
- C. The **New Jerusalem** is the **totality of the overcomers**; a remnant of the Lord's believers, the earlier overcomers, will be the bride of Christ for one thousand years (Rev. 19:7-9; 20:4-6); then they will join the rest of the Lord's believers, the later overcomers, to be the wife of Christ for eternity (21:2-3, 7):
 1. The **earlier overcomers**, as the reality of Zion within Jerusalem, the reality of the Body of Christ within the church, have **highways to Zion in their heart**; they take the way of the church internally by being incorporated into God as their dwelling place through the crucified Christ, typified by the bronze altar as their nest for their refuge, and through the resurrected Christ in ascension, typified by the incense altar as their home for their rest—Psa. 48:2; 84:3-5; cf. Prov. 27:8.
 2. To **overcome** means that we **love the Lord more than our self**, more than our soul-life; an overcomer knows and loves only Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ—Phil. 3:10; 4:12; Rev. 2:4-5, 7; 12:11.
 3. The Lord is waiting for a **group of overcomers** to live out the reality of the Body of Christ in resurrection to become the bride of Christ to bring Him back and to usher in His kingdom age; for this we need to pray, "Lord, may I receive Your mercy and grace to be one of Your overcomers."

Day 4

1 Corinthians 12:24-25 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked, That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.

IV. 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—cf. Ezek. 1:12 and footnote 1.
- C. A group of responsible brothers may meet together often without being blended; to be blended means that we are touched by others and that we 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**—cf. 1 Cor. 1:9.

Day 5

Romans 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,

Romans 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

- E. 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:
 1. The purpose of the blending is to **usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ**; 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.

2. 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**.
3. 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**.
4. 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**.
5. 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).

God has **blended** the Body together. The word blended also means "**adjusted**," "**harmonized**," "**tempered**," and "**mingled**." God has blended the Body, adjusted the Body, harmonized the Body, tempered the Body, and mingled the Body. The Greek word for blended implies the **losing of distinctions**. One brother's distinction may be quickness, and another's may be slowness. But in the Body life the slowness disappears, and the quickness is taken away. All such distinctions are gone. God has blended all the believers of all different races and colors. Who can make the blacks and the whites lose their distinctions? Only God can do this. A husband and a wife can have the harmony in their marriage life only by losing their distinctions.

In order to be harmonized, blended, adjusted, mingled, and tempered in the Body life, **we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit**, dispensing Christ to others for the sake of the Body of Christ. The co-workers and elders must learn to be crossed out. Whatever we do should be by the Spirit to dispense Christ. Also, what we do should not be for our interest and according to our taste but for the church. As long as we practice these points, we will have the blending. (*The Divine and Mystical Realm, chapter 6*)

Day 6

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Philippians 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

V. The desire of God's heart is that the **reality in Jesus, the God-man living of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, would be **duplicated in the many members of Christ's Body** by the Spirit of reality to become the reality of the Body of Christ, the highest peak in God's economy—Eph. 4:20-24, 3-4:**

- A. The reality of the Body of Christ is the **Spirit of reality**, who is the **Spirit of Jesus, mingled with our spirit**; the Spirit of Jesus includes the reality in Jesus, the God-man living of Jesus—John 16:13; Acts 16:7; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:19-21a.
- B. When we live in the mingled spirit, we are learning Christ according to the reality in Jesus by the Spirit of reality according to His model in the four Gospels so that His biography becomes our history; the **living of the Body of Christ as the new man should be exactly the same as the living of Jesus revealed in the four Gospels**—Eph. 1:17; 2:22; 3:5, 16; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18; Gal. 6:17-18; Rom. 1:1, 9; Phil. 2:5.
- C. 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—4:5-9.
- D. 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—Lev. 2:4-5; Psa. 92:10; 1 Cor. 12:12; 10:17:
 1. We use the word mingling because this **living is still going on**.
 2. 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.
- E. 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**—Rev. 21:2-3, 9b-11, 22.

The reality of the Body of Christ is not just a corporate living but a [mingling living](#). If we use the word mingled, this means that this living is consummated, completed. Instead, we use the word mingling because this living is not completed; it is [still going on](#). It is the mingling living in the eternal union of the regenerated, transformed, glorified tripartite God-men with the Triune God in the resurrection of Christ. This Triune God is the very pneumatic Christ as the embodiment of the processed and consummated Triune God, who is the all-inclusive Spirit as the reality of the pneumatic Christ and as the consummation of the processed Triune God. [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.

CONSUMMATING ULTIMATELY IN THE NEW JERUSALEM

Dear saints, such a mingling living is the reality of the Body of Christ. If among us there is, if not in full at least in part, such a living, the reality of the Body of Christ is among us. This is the high peak of the recovery in the local churches like Mount Zion in the city of Jerusalem. [Such a mingling living as the reality of the Body of Christ will consummate ultimately in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth as God's increase and expression for eternity](#).

Anyone who lives such a mingling life would never be a trouble to anyone. They have been delivered out of themselves and have been transformed and perfected. They would not despise or condemn anyone, nor would they be bothered by others. They would not have anything to do with dissension, rebellion, or division. Instead, they would be here in the recovery as the high peak, Mount Zion, in Jerusalem. (*Practical Points concerning Blending, chapter 4*)