

TAKING THE WAY OF ENJOYING CHRIST AS THE TREE OF LIFE , Week 4

Grafted into Christ to Become Part of the Tree of Life

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:9; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 11:17, 24; John 15:1, 4-5

Genesis 2:9	And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
1 Corinthians 6:17	But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
Romans 11:17	But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,
Romans 11:24	For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!
John 15:1	I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
John 15:4	Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
John 15:5	I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Day 1

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

Ephesians 4:3-6 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

I. The Bible reveals that the relationship God desires to have with man is that **He and man become one**—1 Cor. 6:17:

- A. Whenever we come to the Bible, we need to exercise one principle—the principle that **God desires to be one with His chosen people**—John 14:20.
- B. God's main purpose is to make Himself **one with man and to make man one with Him**—Eph. 4:4-6.
- C. God desires that the **divine life** and the **human life** be joined to become **one life**.
- D. The central line of God's economy is to make God and man, man and God, one entity, with the two having **one living by one life with one nature**—Rev. 22:17.
- E. In His incarnation Christ brought God into man, and in His resurrection He brought man into God; by this, **He accomplished** the mingling of God and man into one—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4:
 1. We are in Christ, and He is in us; **He and we have become one person**—1 Cor. 12:12.
 2. Christ has become us, and we have become Him—Heb. 2:14, 11.

Day 2

Romans 11:17-18 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches; but if you boast, remember that it is not you who bear the root, but the root you.

II. The relationship God desires to have with man is that **He and man be grafted together** and thus become one in an **organic union**—Rom. 6:3-5; John 15:4-5:

- A. The grafted life is not an exchanged life—it is the **mingling of the human life with the divine life**—1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. In grafting, two similar lives are joined and then **grow together organically**—Rom. 11:24:
 - 1. Because our human life **was made in the image of God and according to the likeness of God**, it can be joined to the divine life—Gen. 1:26.
 - 2. **Our human life resembles the divine life**; therefore, the divine life and the human life can be grafted together and live together.

Day 3

John 15:4-5 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- C. In order for us to be grafted into Christ, He had to pass through the processes of **incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection** to become the life-giving Spirit—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 2:2; 15:45.
- D. We have been **grafted into Christ as the tree of life**, and this grafting has made us one with Him—Rom. 11:24:
 - 1. Christ and the believers are **one tree**; **He is the vine**, and **we are the branches**—John 15:1, 5a, 4a.
 - 2. Christ becomes our **life, nature, and person**—Col. 3:4, 10-11; Eph. 3:17a.
- E. As regenerated ones who have been grafted into Christ, we should live a grafted life, a life in which two parties are **joined to grow organically**:
 - 1. Since we have been grafted into Christ, we should no longer live by ourselves; rather, we should **allow the pneumatic Christ to live in us**—Gal. 2:20.
 - 2. We should no longer live by our flesh or by our natural being; rather, we should live a **grafted life by the mingled spirit**—the divine Spirit mingled with the regenerated human spirit—1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:4.

Day 4

Romans 6:5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection.

Romans 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree.

- F. In the grafted life the human life is not eliminated but is **strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine life**—Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:16-17a:
 - 1. In the grafted life the branch **retains** its same essential characteristics but is **strengthened, uplifted, and transformed** by being grafted into a higher life—John 15:4-5; Rom. 11:17.
 - 2. In the grafted life the divine life works within us to **discharge the negative elements**:
 - a. The divine life works in a **gradual way to eliminate whatever is natural**.
 - b. The divine life **swallows up our defects and infirmities**.
 - c. The negative element of our disposition is killed, and then, instead of casting away our disposition, the **Lord uplifts and uses it**.
 - 3. In the grafted life the divine life **resurrects God's original creation** and **uplifts our faculties**—John 11:25; Eph. 4:23:
 - a. As the divine life discharges the negative things, it works to **resurrect God's original creation**.

- b. In this way our original functions—the functions given to us at creation—are **restored, strengthened, and uplifted**—Gal. 2:20.
4. In the grafted life the divine life **supplies the riches of Christ to our inward parts** and saturates our whole being—Rom. 12:2; 8:29-30.

Day 5

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:4-5 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

III. Christ as the tree of life is the embodiment of God as life to us, and having been grafted into Christ, we are united to Him organically, and thus **we are part of the tree of life**—Col. 2:9; John 15:1, 4-5:

- A. We not only eat Christ as the tree of life—**we are united to Him and are part of Him**—1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. The **tree of life is for the dispensing of the divine life into us**; as we, the branches, abide in the vine, we receive the dispensing of life from the tree of life and live as part of the tree of life—John 15:5; Rom. 8:2, 10, 6, 11; cf. Phil. 4:13.
- C. **Christ as the tree of life is for the divine economy to dispense Himself into us**; as the branches of the vine, we are abiding in Him, and He is abiding in us.

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.

Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

- D. As we abide in the vine, there is a dispensing of God into us, a dispensing of life from the tree of life into the branches; **this dispensing makes us God-men**—Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.
- E. To abide in Christ as the vine is to **take Him as our dwelling place**, which is the highest and fullest experience of God; to dwell in Christ is to have our living in Christ, taking Him as our everything—Psa. 90:1; 91:1, 9.
- F. If we live as part of the tree of life, we will care not for good and evil **but for life**, and we will discern matters not according to right and wrong **but according to life and death**—Gen. 2:9, 16-17; 2 Cor. 11:3.

The most wonderful reality in the Christian experience is that all the believers in Christ are **united with Him in the way of life**. The union of the believers with Christ is not by organization but by life; hence, this union is organic. The word organic denotes that this **union is absolutely a matter of life**.

A good illustration of this organic union is our physical body. Our body has many members, but all the members are organically united into one body. **The uniting factor is life**. When the body dies, after a certain number of days all the members will be separated and scattered. When life is in the body, all the members are organically united together, but when life is gone, all the members eventually become disunited, detached. The members of the body are united together not by organization but by a living, crucial, and vital factor—life. **We the believers in Christ are one with Him because of such a living, uniting factor**. For this reason we refer to our union with Christ as an organic union... (*The Secret of Experiencing Christ, chapter 5*)