

Church in Regina

NEW LANGUAGE

CHRIST IS A MAN OF SORROWS, THE ONE WILLING TO BE HUMILIATED, AND THE ONE UPON WHOM FELL THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED GOD (ISA. 53:3 & PSA. 22:6-7).

Loving the Lord and Loving One Another for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ—Week 7

Partakers of the Divine Nature

Second Peter 1:4 speaks of the “**partakers of the divine nature.**” This is the highlight of Peter’s ministry. As those who have received equally precious faith, we, the believers in Christ, should be partakers of the divine nature. For God to be our life is a deep subject, but for God’s nature to be our nature is an even deeper matter.

The divine nature refers to what God is, that is, the riches, the elements, and the constituents of God’s being. The **divine nature**, which mainly refers to the *constitution of the divine life*, the *constitution of God*, is constituted with **Spirit, love, and light**. The divine life and the divine nature are inseparable; the divine nature is the substance of the divine life and is within the divine life. As the children of God, we are God-men, born of God, possessing the life and nature of God, and belonging to the species of God. At our regeneration, another nature was imparted into us; this is the nature of God, the divine nature. Because the divine nature is in the divine life, the divine life with which we were born again has the divine nature within it. Whoever believes into the Son of God is born of God and has the right to become a child of God; thus, **a believer has the right to partake of, to enjoy, the nature of God.**

We, the sons of God, have all become partakers of the divine nature. To us, God is no longer merely the creating God but also the begetting Father. He has imparted His life, His nature, and even His being into our being. God the Father has become our nature and life. Because we have been **born of God**, in life and nature we are the **same as God**. In other words, we are God in life and in nature **but not in His Godhead**. On the one hand, the New Testament reveals that the Godhead is unique and that only God, who alone has the Godhead, should be worshipped. On the other hand, the New Testament reveals that we, the believers in Christ, have God’s life and nature and that **we are becoming God in life and in nature but will never have His Godhead**. Regeneration does not make us part of the Godhead. To say that believers become part of the Godhead as objects of worship is to blaspheme God. We cannot share in the Godhead, but we can partake of the divine nature. What a great blessing it is to be one with God in His life and nature!...

When we were regenerated, we were enlivened by God. The divine life came into the center of our being. From that time onward, we have had a living hope, a hope of life. **Our hope** is that **every part of our being will be enlivened**. Regeneration, therefore, has brought in a living hope. Regeneration is unto the enjoyment of the riches of the divine life, and the riches of this life are the divine nature. Hence, **to partake of the divine nature is to enjoy the riches of God.**

When we received the divine life and were regenerated, we became a new being—a partaker of the divine nature. The expression partakers of the divine nature in 2 Peter 1:4 indicates that **the Triune God is our portion**. If God were not our portion, we could not partake of His nature. **Every day we should partake of the divine nature**. Our partaking of the divine nature must be **constant, not occasional**. In our Christian life, we must eat, drink, and even breathe the divine nature...

We have the divine nature within. **The divine nature means everything in our Christian life**. Since we have the divine nature, **we do not need outward regulations** to adjust our hair, clothes, and behavior. Any adjustments that we make should be made according to the divine nature within. **Everything we do, say, and are should be checked with the divine nature**. Every newborn child has the human nature. While little babies do not have any knowledge of outward regulations, they still have the human nature that regulates what they eat. You do not need to teach them about sweet and bitter because they have the human nature with its human taste. As Christians, we have a nature that is much higher than the human nature. We have the divine nature with a divine taste. **We must live a life that matches the divine nature within us.**

It is a **wonderful fact** that as believers **we possess the divine nature**. **The way to enlarge** the sphere of the divine nature within us is **to take the word of Christ** not only by reading but also by praying, singing, psalming, and thanking the Lord. If the word of Christ is to dwell in us richly, we need to **open our entire being and exercise our spirit**. Then the word of Christ will enter into us, stir us up, and become mingled with us, causing us to be one with the Lord in an actual and practical way. As a result, the sphere of the divine nature in us will be enlarged (Excerpts from The Conclusion of the NT: Experiencing, Enjoying, & Expressing Christ, Vol 3, Msgs. 382-436).

Announcements:

- ◆ Bible Distribution at the University of Regina—April 14 at 2pm
- ◆ Love Feast—April 16
- ◆ Sisters’ Mtg—April 16 at 2pm
- ◆ Brothers’ Mtg—April 30 at 6pm

Church Meetings:

- ◆ Lord’s Table, Lord’s Day, 10:00-12:00PM
- ◆ Prayer Meeting, Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00PM
- ◆ YP & College Meetings, Fridays, 6:45-8:30PM
- ◆ Children’s Meeting, Saturdays, 10:00-11:00AM
- ◆ Small Group, Fridays & Saturdays, 7:00-9:00PM

Contact Us:

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Prayer Burdens:

1. Lord, in ourselves we can never be perfect as the Father is perfect. Thank You that we can take You as our life and person, simply grow in Your life and we'll be the same as You are. Work in us to renounce our natural life, turn to the life of our Father, and stay with the divine nature.
2. Lord, keep us under Your dispensing today. Save us from living in ourselves and reacting to things according to our natural man. Thank You, Lord for calling us into Your own glory and virtue and for giving us precious and exceedingly great promises.
3. Lord, we take You as our Source and as the All-sufficient One. Daily, we just come to You as our *El Shaddai*, the all-sufficient udder who supplies all of our daily needs. Keep us enjoying Your supply and cause us to walk in Your presence.
4. Lord, keep us abiding in You. Dispense more of Yourself into us until Your love is perfected with us. May we have the boldness in the day of judgment. May our living today be such a manifestation of You in this world.
5. Lord, perfect us through the gifted members, that we may function in the meetings of the church for the Body to be built up. Save us from trying to be individual Christians who secluded from the Body.
6. Thank You, Lord for regenerating us with the divine life. Keep us enjoying the divine nature day by day. Lord, fill us with Yourself as love until we live a life of holiness, separate and distinct from this current age of darkness and degradation. Keep us contacting You daily, even remaining in fellowship with You all the time.

North America/Other Burdens

1. Pray for the release of funding to complete a purchase that will acquire the entire mezzanine floor of a building in Malaga, Spain, for the use of the church and the work (500,000 euros).

Church in Regina:

1. Lord, we pray for the Bible distribution at the University of Regina on April 14. Bring us those students who are really seeking after You. Use this distribution to reach many local students for Your testimony in the University.
2. Pray for safe and smooth delivery of Sister Evangeline. Strengthen her in her tripartite man and make both mom and David healthy. Preserve their whole family for the church life.

Misaiming concerning "Sons by Adoption"

Misaiming: "Though we are 'sons' of the Most High, we are not sons by nature, but by adoption (Galatians 4:5-8). Only Christ Himself can be said to have the nature of God" (Hank Hanegraff, *Christianity in Crisis*, p.115).

Truth: By making such an inaccurate statement, Hanegraff annuls one of the most precious truths revealed in the Bible. The Bible clearly and unequivocally states that the believers in Christ are "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4) and have been "begotten of God" (John 1:13). We are not merely adopted by God to have a legal relationship with Him positionally; we are begotten of God, "born anew." to have a personal relationship with Him organically...

Peter was not trying to be vague and mysterious when he said we are "partakers of the divine nature." The Scriptures state emphatically that Christ is in us (Col. 1:27; 2 Cor. 13:5; Rom. 8:10). Is Christ in us apart from His divine nature? Did He leave the divine nature at the throne when He regenerated us? Certainly not. Believers have the divine nature in them because, and only because, they have Christ in them. The Bible also says that Christ lives in us (Gal. 2:20), that He is gained by us (Phil. 3:8), and that He is magnified in us (1:20). Does Christ live in us without His divine nature? Can we gain Christ without also gaining His divine nature? Can we magnify Christ without magnifying His divine attributes? Certainly not, for such a claim would not only be contrary to Scripture but would also be illogical.

(Excerpts from *Affirmation and Critique, Experiencing the Triune God, Vol. 1 • No. 2 • April 1996, pp. 61*)

Events, Conferences & Trainings:

Chinese-Speaking Conference

February 17-19, 2023, Anaheim, CA USA

March ITERO

March 24-26, 2023, Anaheim, CA USA

Memorial Day Conference

May 26-29, 2023, Chicago, IL USA

July Semiannual Training

July 3-8 2023, Anaheim, CA USA

October ITERO

October 5-7, 2023, TBD

Thanksgiving Conference

November 23-26, 2023, Dallas, TX USA

Dec. Semiannual Training

December 25-30, 2023, Anaheim CA USA