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Church in Regina

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THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE

THE FOURTH STAGE –CHRIST'S FULL GROWTH IN US Knowing the Body

*Now we will consider the fourth stage of our spiritual experience. After we have passed through the previous stages, all difficulties in us relating to sin, the world, the offense in the conscience, the flesh, the self, and the natural constitution having been dealt with and purged, there remains in us nothing but God. **God now has gained absolute ground in us**, and our whole being within and without is entirely filled with the Holy Spirit. Now we enter the highest stage of the spiritual life, where Christ is fully grown and matured in us. We have, therefore, called this highest stage, "Christ's full growth in us." In this fourth stage, we shall cover five experiences: 1) knowing the Body, 2) knowing the ascension, 3) reigning with Christ, 4) spiritual warfare, or bringing in the kingdom of God, and 5) full of the stature of Christ. Now let us come to the first experience of this stage, that is – knowing the Body.*

2514 Truesdale Drive, Regina, SK
February 19, 2018

Scripture Reading

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in **the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

[T]he Bible does not infer that as brethren we are a number of separate individuals. For though we become brethren of Christ one by one, yet the Bible further states that we are the “house of God”. Though we are many sons of God, the individual son is not the unit. The unit is the corporate unity of all the sons, who have come together as one house, one family.

Eph 5:31-32 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and **the church**.

Some may think that because there are thousands saved, Christ has thousands of brides, as in a polygamous system; but the Bible shows that Christ has only one Bride—the Church, which is composed of all the thousands of saved ones. When the Bible says that we are the Bride of Christ, the point of emphasis is that we have come out from Christ and are a part of Christ, just as Eve came out from Adam and was a part of Adam. In the beginning Adam did not have many ribs removed, but only one, that is, the rib which became Eve. Similarly, Christ did not have many segments removed (such as one segment for one brother to be saved, and another segment for a sister to be saved, etc.), but only one segment was taken from Him, and that was for the saving of the Church. The Church is the only part that came out from Christ. When we say that we are the Bride of Christ, the idea of corporateness is expressed more specifically than when we refer to ourselves as the brethren of Christ.

Hymn #867 (tune of 824)

1 As members of the Body
Christ we would manifest,
Each learning how to function
His fulness to express;
We would not be spectators
But each as members move,
None bringing death or damage
But each our profit prove.

2 As in a team we'd never
Act independently,
But in coordination,
Each would dependent be;
Not acting by our choosing
But following the flow,
Distraction never bringing,
The Spirit's way we'd know.

3 On Christ we here would focus,
No other center make;
With Christ in sweet communion
His riches to partake.
He is our Head and content,
His Body we express;
Whate'er we do while meeting
Himself must manifest.

4 Built up in love together,
Not one would criticize;
To perfect one another,
We all would exercise.
Each one from self delivered,
The natural life forsakes;
In grace each trained in spirit
The Body-life partakes.