

## The Normal Christian Life

### One Body in Christ

#### A Gate and a Path

- The phases in the **life** and **experience** of a believer are marked by **recurring** steps.
  - Revelation (objective).
  - Experience (subjective).
- Experience usually takes the two-fold form of a **crisis** leading to a **continuous process**.
- **Matt. 7:14** – Because narrow is the **gate** and constricted is the **way** that leads to life, and few are those who find it.
  - Revelation
  - Experience
    - A wicket gate (crisis)
    - A narrow path (process)
- In our justification and new birth.
  - Begins with a **revelation of the Lord Jesus** in His **atonement work** for our sins on the Cross.
  - Follows the **crisis of repentance and faith** (wicket gate)
  - Leads to a **walk of maintained fellowship** with Him (narrow path)
- When we come to deliverance from sin.
  - Holy Spirit's **work of revelation**
  - The crisis of faith (**reckoning**)
  - Continuing process of consecration (**presenting ourselves to God**)
- The matter of pleasing God
  - **Seeing** the values of the Cross in regard to “the flesh”
  - We **cease from “doing”** and accept by faith the mighty working of the life of Christ to satisfy God's demands.
  - Leads to a **walk in obedience** to the Spirit.

#### The Fourfold Work of Christ in His Cross

- We may recognize **four** aspects of God's redemptive work.
  - The **Blood of Christ** to deal with sins and guilt
  - The **Cross of Christ** to deal with sin, the flesh, and the natural man

- The **Life of Christ** made available to indwell, re-create, and empower man
- The **Working of Death** in the natural man that that indwelling Life may be progressively manifest.
- The first two aspects are **remedial**.
  - Related to the **undoing** of the work of the Devil and sin of man.
  - Concerned with **recovering** what Adam lost by the Fall.
- The last two are concerned with bringing us into, and bringing into us, something that **Adam never had**.

### **The Love of Christ**

- We have been taught to think of ourselves as **sinners needing redemption**.
  - We praise the Lord for that as our **beginning**,
  - That is not what God has in view as **His end**.
    - God speaks of a **glorious church**
  - In God's sight the **Church is a Divine creation** in His Son.
  - The **eternal purpose** is something in the mind of God from eternity concerning His Son
    - It has as its objective that **the Son should have a Body to express His life**.
- In **Romans** it is “**we sinned**”, and the message is of **God's love for sinners**.
- In **Ephesians** it is “**Christ loved**”, and the love is the **love of husband for wife**.
- There is thus an aspect of the death of the Lord Jesus which is positive and a matter particularly of love to His church.
- There is one type of the death of Christ in the Old Testament which has **nothing to do with sin**.
  - Adam was put to sleep for the creation of Eve.
  - God's “second man” has awakened from His “sleep” and **His Church is created in Him and of Him**, to draw her life from Him and to display that resurrection life.
- The Lord Jesus laid down **His life**, and that life emerged in **many lives**.
- The outcome of the Cross is a **single person**: a **Bride** for the Son. Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for it.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 11)