

Message Four

Enjoying Christ as Everything in the Church as the Corporate Christ, the Body-Christ

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:2, 9, 24, 30; 5:8; 10:3-4, 17; 12:12-13; 15:45b

- 1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours.
- 1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 Cor. 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- 1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.
- 1 Cor. 5:8 So then let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- 1 Cor. 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,
- 1 Cor. 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.
- 1 Cor. 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.
- 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- 1 Cor. 15:45b The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

I. We should treasure the revelation of the all-inclusive Christ in 1 Corinthians—1:2, 9, 24, 30; 2:7-8, 10; 3:11; 5:7-8; 10:3-4; 11:3; 12:12; 15:20, 23, 45b, 47.

- 1 Cor. 1:2, etc. See above.
- 1 Cor. 2:7 But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages for our glory,
- 1 Cor. 2:8 Which none of the rulers of this age have known; for if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- 1 Cor. 2:10 But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.
- 1 Cor. 3:11 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- 1 Cor. 5:7 Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed.
- 1 Cor. 5:8 So then let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- 1 Cor. 10:3-4 See above.
- 1 Cor. 11:3 But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.
- 1 Cor. 12:12 See above.
- 1 Cor. 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- 1 Cor. 15:23 But each one in his own order: the firstfruits, Christ; then those who are Christ's at His coming.
- 1 Cor. 15:45b See above.
- 1 Cor. 15:47 The first man is out of the earth, earthy; the second man is out of heaven.

II. The enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ brings forth the proper church and preserves us in oneness; the oneness in the enjoyment of Christ as our portion is the church life—1:2, 9, 13a.

- 1 Cor. 1:2, 9 See Scripture Reading.
- 1 Cor. 1:13a Is Christ divided?

III. In the church we all need to eat the same spiritual food and drink the same spiritual drink—10:3-4:

- 1 Cor. 10:3-4 See Scripture Reading.

A. The spiritual food in 1 Corinthians 10:3 refers to manna, which typifies Christ as our daily life supply for the Christian journey—Exo. 16:14-16; John 6:31-35:

- 1 Cor. 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food.
Exo. 16:14 And when the layer of dew lifted, there upon the surface of the wilderness were fine round flakes, fine as the frost on the earth.
Exo. 16:15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, What is it? For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, It is the bread which Jehovah has given you to eat.
Exo. 16:16 This is what Jehovah has commanded, Gather of it, each one according to his eating; you shall take an omer a head, according to the number of your persons, each one for those who are in his tent.
John 6:31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, "He gave them bread out of heaven to eat."
John 6:32 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses has not given you the bread out of heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread out of heaven.
John 6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.
John 6:34 They said therefore to Him, Lord, give us this bread always.
John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

1. We believers should all eat the same spiritual food, not eating anything other than Christ—1 Cor. 10:3; John 6:57b.

- 1 Cor. 10:3 See above.
John 6:57b So he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

2. Christ should be our unique food, and we should not seek to live on any other food—vv. 54-55.

- John 6:54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.
John 6:55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

3. The Christ who is our spiritual food is the Christ who becomes subjective to us—Gal. 2:20; 4:19.

- Gal. 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.
Gal. 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you.

B. The spiritual drink in 1 Corinthians 10:4 refers to the living water that flowed out of the cleft rock; this water typifies the Spirit as our all-inclusive drink—Exo. 17:6; John 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 12:13:

- 1 Cor. 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.
Exo. 17:6 I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.
John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

1. In Exodus 17:6 the rock is a type of Christ, Moses signifies the law, the staff represents the power and authority of the law, the smiting of the rock signifies that Christ was smitten by the authority of God's law, and the water flowing out of the smitten rock typifies the Spirit—John 7:37-39; 19:34.

Exo. 17:6 I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

2. The spiritual drink, the living water, is the water of life in resurrection; when we drink the water of life in resurrection, we become persons in resurrection and of resurrection—1 Cor. 10:4; John 14:20; 2 Cor. 1:9; 4:14.

1 Cor. 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

2 Cor. 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

2 Cor. 4:14 Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will make us stand before Him with you.

3. By our eating and drinking of Christ, God works Himself into us, for by eating and drinking we take the Lord in, and He becomes one with us organically to be our life and constituent—1 Cor. 10:3-4; Col. 3:4, 10-11.

1 Cor. 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,

1 Cor. 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

IV. The enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ revealed in 1 Corinthians issues in the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ—12:12-13:

1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

A. Christ is a complete person, both the Head and the Body—Col. 1:18; 2:19:

Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things.

Col. 2:19 ...Holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

1. Since Christ is both the Head and the Body, He is the Body-Christ.

2. For Christ to be the Body-Christ means that He is no longer only the individual Christ; He is also the corporate Christ—1 Cor. 12:12; Acts 9:4-5:
 - 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
 - Acts 9:4 And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?
 - Acts 9:5 And he said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, whom you persecute.
 - a. Christ has an individual aspect and a corporate aspect—Matt. 16:18.
 - Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 - b. Individually He is Christ, and corporately He is the Body-Christ.
- B. The highest enjoyment of Christ is the enjoyment of the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ; to enjoy Christ as the Body-Christ is not merely to enjoy Him in one aspect but to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ in His fullness—Col. 2:9.
 - Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
- C. First Corinthians 12:12 says, “Even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ”:
 1. The Christ is not the individual Christ but the corporate Christ, Christ incorporated with all His members.
 2. The corporate Christ is composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church with all the believers as His Body—11:3; 12:12, 27.
 - 1 Cor. 11:3 But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.
 - 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
 - 1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.
- D. As indicated by the word for, 1 Corinthians 12:13 is the continuation, definition, and explanation of verse 12:
 - 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
 - 1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
 1. All the members are one Body, and this Body is Christ, because in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body—vv. 13-14, 24, 27.
 - 1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
 - 1 Cor. 12:14 For the body is not one member but many.
 - 1 Cor. 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 Cor. 12:27 See C.2.
 2. We, as the many members of the Body of Christ, are one because we have been baptized in the Spirit—v. 13:
 - 1 Cor. 12:13 See above.
 - a. The Spirit in whom we have been baptized is Christ, who became the life-giving Spirit—15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17.
 - 1 Cor. 15:45b The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

2 Cor. 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- b. We have all been positioned in the Body to drink of the one Spirit, the life-giving Spirit, who is Christ; now, since we are in the Body, we need to drink this one Spirit, who is Christ Himself—1 Cor. 12:13.

1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

- c. Eventually, we are filled, flooded, saturated, and permeated by the Spirit; therefore, we are one with one another and with Christ as one Body, which is Christ Himself—6:17; 12:12.

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

1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

- d. The Spirit, who is Christ Himself, becomes the Body-Christ—2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 12:12-13.

2 Cor. 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

1 Cor. 15:45b The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

- e. In the church we have the position to drink the Body-Christ, the Christ who is the life-giving Spirit in the Body—v. 13; 15:45b.

1 Cor. 12:13, etc. See above.

- E. The bread on the Lord's table signifies Christ's body in two aspects—10:17:

1 Cor. 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

1. First, it signifies the physical body of Jesus; He was pierced, crucified on the cross, and shed His blood for us—Matt. 26:26.

Matt. 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.

2. Second, the bread signifies the mystical Body of Christ; the mystical Body of Christ is the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ—1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 1:23.

1 Cor. 12:12 See b.

Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

3. When we partake of the bread at the Lord's table, we are eating not only the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ; we enjoy the mystical Body of Christ, and we participate in the Body-Christ—1 Cor. 10:17.

1 Cor. 10:17 See E.

- F. By enjoying the all-inclusive Christ in the church as the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ, we enjoy a meal-offering church life—Lev. 2:1; Acts 2:46:

Lev. 2:1 And when anyone presents an offering of a meal offering to Jehovah, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it.

Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart.

1. By eating Christ as our meal offering, we become the reproduction, duplication, and enlargement of Christ as the meal offering—an offering composed of humanity oiled with divinity in resurrection through Christ's death and without leaven and honey—Lev. 2:2, 4-5, 11, 13; John 6:57.

Lev. 2:2 Then he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests, and he shall take from it his handful of its fine flour and of its oil with all its frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as its memorial portion on the altar, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

Lev. 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.

Lev. 2:5 And if your offering is a meal offering baked on a flat plate, it shall be of fine flour mingled with oil, unleavened.

Lev. 2:11 No meal offering that you present to Jehovah shall be made with leaven, for you shall not burn any leaven or any honey as an offering by fire to Jehovah.

Lev. 2:13 And every offering of your meal offering you shall season with salt, and you shall not omit the salt of the covenant of your God from your meal offering; with all your offerings you shall present salt.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

2. The flour meal offering signifies both the individual Christ and the individual Christian; the cake meal offering signifies the corporate Christ, Christ with His Body, the church—Lev. 2:2, 4; 1 Cor. 12:12; 10:17.

Lev. 2:2, 4 See above.

1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor. 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

3. In order to be blended in the Body life, the meal-offering church 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—12:24, 27; 1:18; 2:2; 12:13.

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

1 Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Cor. 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.

1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

4. God desires that every local church be a meal offering to satisfy Him and fully supply the saints day by day; this means that we will eat our church life, for the church life will be our daily supply—5:8; Acts 2:46.

1 Cor. 5:8 So then let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart.