

# WEEK 5 — OUTLINE

## The Recovery of the Church Life

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Rev. 22:16; Eph. 2:21-22; 3:16-21; 1 Cor. 1:9

### « DAY 1 »

#### **I. Before the Lord Jesus comes back, He will fully recover the proper church life (Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Rev. 1:11; 22:16, 20):**

- A. *Nothing touches the Lord's heart as much as the recovery of the church life.*
- B. *In this present age, before His coming back, the Lord must have the church life to shame His enemy.*
- C. *No matter what Satan does to damage the church, the Lord Jesus will return, and His church will be waiting for Him.*

### « DAY 2 »

#### **II. The church life is Christ lived out through us in a corporate way (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21a; 3:9-10):**

- A. *The church life is a life in which we take Christ as our life and our person (Col. 3:4; 1 John 5:11-12; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:16-17).*
- B. *The Christian life is not a religious life; it is a life that is Christ Himself lived out through us (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21a).*
- C. *When we live Christ, He joins us together in oneness, and Christ will be lived out through us in a corporate way (Rom. 12:4-5).*
- D. *Christ Himself is our life, and He is the Spirit within us; the*

*church life is Christ Himself realized as life and as the life-giving Spirit dwelling in us (Col. 3:4; 1 John 5:11-12; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17).*

*E. The way to practice the church life is to put ourselves and everything on the cross and take Christ as life; then we will be permeated and saturated by Christ and with Christ (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:4).*

### « DAY 3 »

*F. We need to learn to be inward Christians who are being transformed for the practice of the church life (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2-21):*

1. The church life is Christ Himself as the Spirit permeating, saturating, and transforming us (1 Cor. 15:45b; Eph. 3:16-17).
2. The church life is a transformed life, not a natural life; it is Christ Himself as the subjective Spirit living within us (Rom. 12:2).
3. The more we are transformed and filled with Christ, the more we will be living, real, and practical members of Christ and realize the genuine church life (Eph. 3:17; 2 Cor. 3:18).
4. If we are transformed, it will be easy for us to be joined, knit, and built up together with others; this is to be built up in the church life (Eph. 2:21-22).

### **III. The genuine experience of Christ always issues in and requires the church life (1 Cor. 1:2, 9, 30; 2:2, 10; 5:7-8; 10:3-4; 12:12-13, 27):**

*A. The more we experience Christ, the more something within requires that we live in the proper church life.*

*B. When we experience Christ in a genuine and living way, He will require us to get into the church life because the dispensing*

*of Christ into us is for the producing of the church (Rom. 8:11; 12:2-21).*

*C. God dispenses Himself into us as everything for the purpose of gaining His corporate expression, which is the church (Eph. 3:16-21).*

*D. When we take Christ as our life, our person, and our everything, this Christ within us will require the proper church life; in fact, the Christ in us will become the church life.*

#### **IV. The church life is a life of being headed up under the unique headship of Christ (1:10, 22-23; 4:15-16):**

##### **<< DAY 4 >>**

*A. God is heading up His chosen ones to be the Body of Christ, with Christ as the Head (1:4, 22-23):*

1. The first step in the heading up of all things in Christ is for God to place His sons under the unique headship of Christ (vv. 5, 10).
2. When the church takes the lead to be headed up under the headship of Christ, God has a way to head up all other things (vv. 22-23, 10).

*B. In the proper church life we are being headed up in Christ (1 Cor. 11:3):*

1. If we do not know what it is to be headed up in Christ, we cannot know the church (Eph. 1:10, 22-23).
2. In the church life we are taking the lead to be headed up in Christ; for this we need to grow up into the Head, Christ, in all things (4:15-16).

#### **V. Fellowship is the reality of the church life (1 Cor. 1:9; 10:16-17; Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3, 7):**

*A. This fellowship involves not only the oneness between us and the*

*Triune God but also the oneness among all the believers (John 17:21-23; Eph. 4:3).*

## « DAY 5 »

*B. The church is the fellowship, the communion, the co-participation, the mutual enjoyment of Christ (1 Cor. 1:9).*

*C. Fellowship also implies a mutual flowing among the believers (1 John 1:3, 7):*

1. In the New Testament, fellowship describes the flowing both between us and the Lord and between us and one another (Phil. 2:1).
2. The flow, the current, that we have in our spiritual fellowship involves both oneness and life; our fellowship is a flow of oneness.
3. This fellowship, this mutual flowing, is the reality of the church life (1 Cor. 1:9, 2).

## **VI. The church life is the continuation of the divine glorification—the continuation of Christ being glorified by the Father with the divine glory (John 12:23-24; 13:31-32; 17:1, 5, 22; Acts 3:13):**

*A. Glory is the expression of the divine life and the divine nature (7:2; Eph. 1:17):*

1. If we live by the divine life and nature, we will express the divine glory (4:18; 2 Pet. 1:4).
2. The more we live by the divine life and the divine nature, the more divine glory there will be in the church (Eph. 3:21).
3. The expression of this glory is the glorification of the Lord Jesus.

## « DAY 6 »

- B. The divine glorification began with the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and it is continuing today (Luke 24:26; Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 3:21).*
- C. The church has been produced in this glorification, and it continues to grow in the divine glorification (John 14:2; 15:1, 4-5; 16:21).*
- D. Whatever the church does in the matter of fruit-bearing is a continuation of the divine glorification (15:8).*

## **VII. The church life is the corporate expression of Christ (Eph. 3:16-21; 4:16; 5:27):**

- A. The key to the church life as the expression of Christ is the spirit of the mind (4:23):*
- 1. If we live according to the spirit of the mind, there will be in the church life an expression of the divine character (v. 24; Col. 3:10).*
  - 2. We will be a corporate people with the flavor of Christ and the expression of God.*
- B. In our virtues of lowliness, meekness, long-suffering, and love, there should be the expression of Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God (Eph. 4:2-6).*
- C. The church life must be filled with the aroma and flavor of Christ and with the character of God; such a living is the living of the Triune God through our humanity (Phil. 1:20-21a).*
- D. For centuries the Lord has been longing for such a church life (Eph. 1:5, 9):*
- 1. We pray that before long this kind of church life will be fully practiced among us in the Lord's recovery (Col. 1:9; 4:12; Matt. 6:10).*
  - 2. May the Lord be satisfied by seeing such an expression of Himself through the*

recovery of the genuine church life throughout the earth.

# « WEEK 5 — DAY 1 »

## Morning Nourishment

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.

Rev. 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

I have the assurance that before the Lord comes back, He will fully recover the proper church life. Many Christian teachers, however, do not believe that this is possible. According to them, we cannot have the church life in this age; they say the church life is possible only in the age to come. Those who hold this view say that we should not talk about the church, but simply love the Lord, preach the gospel, and help the believers to be spiritual. Many of those who take such a position are opposed to the Lord's present recovery. But in spite of all opposition, we have the assurance that the church life will be recovered in full in this age, not in the age to come. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 663-664)

## Today's Reading

Nothing touches the Lord's heart as much as the recovery of the church life. This is His recovery today. The Lord desires to recover the church life so that He may have a people who have come out of every division, so that He may have a place for His name and for His habitation, and so that He may have the Holy of Holies in which and from which to speak to His people today. (CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Kernel of the Bible," p. 229)

It is contrary to the Scriptures to say that the church life will be in the coming age. The next age will not be the age of the church; it will be the age of the kingdom. In this present age, before His coming back, the Lord must have the church life to shame the enemy. I believe that for centuries Satan, the enemy of God, has been challenging Christ concerning the church. Perhaps Satan has said to Him, "Where is Your church? Show me the church You have promised to build.

Some of Your servants even teach that it is not possible to have the church life in this age.” Perhaps Christ is saying to Satan, “Satan, look at the local churches on earth today. Consider how many of My people are testifying that it is possible to have the church life in this age. They are not only for the church life but are in the church life in a practical way.”

I believe that in the coming years the Lord will spread the church life to England, Germany, France, and Italy. Furthermore, I believe that one day there will be a church in Rome and even in Jerusalem, where the church life began more than nineteen centuries ago. Acts 1:9-12 tells us that Christ ascended from the Mount of Olives, and Zechariah 14:4 reveals that Christ will return also to the Mount of Olives. In the same principle, the Lord began His church in Jerusalem and, I believe, will send the recovery of His church back to Jerusalem.

Concerning the recovery of the church life, the Lord Jesus cannot be defeated....No matter what Satan does to damage the church, the Lord Jesus will return, and His church will be waiting for Him. There may be a church in the city of Jerusalem. Perhaps the meeting hall will not be far from the Mount of Olives, the place from which He ascended and to which He will descend in His coming back. It would be a shame to the Lord Jesus to come back without having a church in Jerusalem ready for Him. The Lord will not suffer such a shame. For this reason, He is waiting for His recovery to spread to Europe and, ultimately, to Jerusalem.

We all need to enjoy Christ and to experience Him as the church-loving Christ. Because we also love the church, we are one with Him for the spread of His recovery throughout the world and back to Jerusalem. Oh, how Christ loves the church! He is in us as the church-loving Christ. His love for the church makes us willing to give our all for the recovery of the church life. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 664-666)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ephesians, msgs. 79-80



## « WEEK 5 — DAY 2 »

### Morning Nourishment

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.

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

In the church life we do not need outward correction. Instead, the church life is a life in which we all take Christ as our life and person. The elders and the elderly sisters need to help the saints to realize that their need is to take the Lord Jesus as their person. The more all the saints do this, the more they will experience the speaking of Christ as the life-giving Spirit. This speaking will be to them the cleansing, purifying water. This water will spread the element of Christ throughout their being, and it will discharge all oldness. Eventually,...[they] will no longer be bothered by problems with each other but will grow together and be built up together. This is the proper church life. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 467-468)

### Today's Reading

What is the Christian life? What is the church life? The Christian life is not a religious life; it is a life that is Christ Himself lived out through us. We must take Christ as life and live by Him day by day. We need to love Him and be willing to be regulated, governed, and ruled by Him. Then we will be walking in this living One, and we will be in the reality of the Christian life. The church life is not something organized or something regulated by teaching. The church life is Christ lived out through us in a corporate way. You live Christ and I live Christ, and this very Christ unites us together in oneness. Then together we have the corporate life of Christ expressed.

What is the life for us to practice the church, and what is the proper way for

us to practice the church life?...The burden today is to meet the urgent need by helping us to see the life and the way for the church practice. No doubt, we all would say that the life for us to practice the church is Christ Himself. Many of us have the realization that we need Christ as our life, but very few realize that Christ as our life is for us to practice the church life.

There have been many teachings about life—the victorious life, the sanctified life, the exchanged life, the crucified life, the spiritual life, the divine life, the eternal life, and the life of Christ, the life of God. But it is hard to find a book telling us that this overcoming life, this spiritual life, the life of Christ, is for the church. This life is not just for victory or for sanctification. This life is not just for being spiritual, divine, and holy. This life is for a definite purpose, that is, for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. Simply speaking, this life is for the church.

You have Christ as the Spirit in you. He is moving, acting, living, working, shining, regulating, and anointing within you. You need to follow this wonderful Spirit and cooperate with Him, go along with Him, and take Him as everything for yourself. Moreover, you need to learn the lesson of renouncing yourself. You can never practice the church life by the human life. If you do not learn the lesson of remaining on the cross all the time, there will be much trouble in your practice of the church life....All of us have to go to the cross. If there are “you and I,” there is no Body, no church. This is why Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I...but...Christ” (Gal. 2:20a).

We all have to see that the practice of the church life is not by bringing everyone into agreement with one another through discussions, talks, and negotiations with certain terms or conditions. Rather, the way to practice the church life is to put everyone and everything on the cross and to have everyone take Christ as life. Then we will be permeated and saturated by Christ and with Christ. Then we will be wholly, thoroughly, and absolutely a member of Christ from within to without. (The Life and Way for the Practice of the Church Life, pp. 66, 13, 73)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ephesians, msg. 55; The Life and Way for the Practice of the Church Life, chs. 7-9

# « WEEK 5 — DAY 3 »

## Morning Nourishment

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

The church life is Christ Himself as the Spirit permeating, saturating, and transforming us. When we are fully transformed and are full of Christ, we will become the living, real, practical members of Christ. Then it will be easy for us to be joined, knit, and built up together with others. This is to be built up, not with something natural as wood, grass, and stubble but with something transformed as gold, silver, and precious stones (1 Cor. 3:12)...The church is organic, something growing up in life. (The Life and Way for the Practice of the Church Life, pp. 80-81)

## Today's Reading

In order to have the church life, we need to go to the cross and take care of Christ, who is the wonderful Spirit within us. We need to take care of our inner feeling, inner guidance, inner shining, and inner registration. If we would go to the cross and realize Christ within us, we will be clear. All problems are solved by the cross. This is why in 1 Corinthians 2:2 the apostle Paul told the believers that he did not determine to know anything among them except Jesus Christ and this One crucified. The church life is a transformed life, not a natural life. It is Christ Himself, not as an objective doctrine but as the subjective Spirit living within us.

Do not try to change yourself outwardly. That is false. You have to be transformed from within to become a living member of the Body; then you will realize the genuine church life. This is what we need today. (The Life and Way for the Practice of the Church Life, p. 81)

The genuine experience of Christ always issues in and demands the church

life. The more you experience Christ, the more something within requires that you live in the proper church life. Satan is subtle. Throughout the centuries he has concealed the real experience of Christ, making Christ altogether objective, an object of human belief and worship. But once we experience Christ in a genuine and living way, He will require us to get into the church life because the dispensation of Christ into us is for the producing of the church. God dispenses Himself into us as everything for the purpose of gaining His corporate expression, which is the church.

When we take Christ as our life, as our person, and as our everything, this Christ within us will require the proper church life. In fact, the Christ in us will become the church life. Christ both requires and becomes the church life. (CWWL, 1975-1976, vol. 3, “Young People’s Training,” pp. 326-327)

By the angelic rebellion and the human rebellion, the universe collapsed into a heap. This is the reason that today’s human society and creation itself are such a mess. Everywhere there is nothing but rebellion....Nevertheless, God has purposed to bring in His administration to head up all things in Christ.

Does the body support the head or does the head uphold the body? The answer is that the head upholds the body. This is proved by the fact that if a person’s head is cut off, the body falls to the ground....In like manner, the church life is a life of being headed up. If we truly want to have a glorious church, we must be willing to be headed up. All around us, at school, at work, and in the government, we see nothing but a state of collapse; nothing is headed up. But in the proper church life we are being headed up. This heading up in the church life is the beginning of God’s heading up of all things. Under Christ and through the church, God will head up all things in the universe. This is the mystery of God’s will. Ultimately, the mystery of God’s will in the universe is to head up all things in Christ. (Life-study of Ephesians, p. 70)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1984, vol. 4, “Vital Factors for the Recovery of the Church Life,” chs. 4-6; Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life, ch. 3

# « WEEK 5 – DAY 4 »

## Morning Nourishment

Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him.

4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ.

The first step is for God to bring His chosen ones, His sons, out of the collapse and to place them under the headship of Christ. Here, under the headship of Christ, we are outside of the heap of the universal collapse, and we are over all things. Thus, the church life must be a life of being headed up. In the church life it is God's chosen ones, not the world leaders, the unbelievers, or the animals, that are being headed up. God is heading up all His chosen ones to be the Body of Christ with Christ as the Head. Eventually, this Body with Christ as the Head will be the universal Head over all things. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 76-77)

### Today's Reading

Today we in the church are taking the lead to be headed up in Christ. If we are not willing to be headed up in the church life, we shall delay the heading up of all things. In fact, God will not have a way to accomplish the heading up of all things in Christ if we, the chosen ones, are not willing to be headed up. But if we are willing for this, God will say with joy, "These are the pioneers who are taking the lead to be headed up. They are pioneering the way for Me to head up all things in Christ." When the church takes the lead to be headed up in Christ, God has a way to head up all other things.

Many Christians are talking about the church, but in their talk the word church has become meaningless. In the book of Ephesians, however, the church means a great deal. But if you do not know what it is to be headed up in Christ, you cannot know what the church is. The church is not a heap of fallen people who are still in the collapse. The church is the heading up of God's chosen ones under

the headship of Christ. In contrast to the genuine church, today's Christianity is a heap. Wherever you go in Christianity, you see one heap after another. The reason there are so many heaps in the denominations or in the independent Christian groups is that, just as in human society, there is no heading up. But in the proper church life we are being headed up in Christ.

Today we in the church life are taking the lead to be headed up in Christ. For this we need to grow in life and have the light of life. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 77-80)

I would encourage you all to seek the experience and the enjoyment of the fellowship of God's Son. The more we enjoy the co-participation in this fellowship, the better the church life will be. We need to enjoy this fellowship both at home and in the meetings. Then we shall not be troubled by opinions, gossip, or different teachings, for we shall not care for anything other than the practical co-enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ who is to us the Spirit, the resurrection, and the Triune God. This fellowship is the reality of the church. Thus, we must seek to experience this fellowship all the time. Then we shall enjoy Christ in the church.

It is not easy to give an adequate definition of the fellowship of the Son of God. This matter is altogether wonderful. This fellowship involves not only the oneness between us and the Triune God, but also the oneness among all the believers. Furthermore, it implies enjoyment—our enjoyment of the Triune God, the Triune God's enjoyment of us, and also the enjoyment which the believers have with one another. In this fellowship we enjoy the Triune God, and the Triune God enjoys us. Moreover, we enjoy all the believers, and all the believers enjoy us. What a wonderful, universal, mutual enjoyment! We have been called into something which is termed the fellowship of God's Son. This fellowship is universal and mutual. The mutuality of this fellowship is not only between the believers and the Triune God but also among the believers themselves. (Life-study of 1 Corinthians, pp. 103-104, 30-31)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1978, vol. 3, "Crucial Principles for the Proper Church Life," ch. 3; CWWL, 1978, vol. 2, "Crucial Principles for the Christian Life and the Church Life," ch. 6; Life-study of Ephesians, msgs. 8-10

# « WEEK 5 – DAY 5 »

## Morning Nourishment

1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eph. 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

The church is the fellowship, the communion, the co-participation, the mutual enjoyment, of Christ. This Christ is now the resurrection and the Spirit. If you have seen that the church life consists in this fellowship,...you will not be distracted from Christ by doctrines or practices. (Life-study of 1 Corinthians, p. 103)

### Today's Reading

The word fellowship is used for the first time in Acts 2:42, where we are told that those who were saved and added to the church on the day of Pentecost continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles. The apostles had preached the gospel to them, and this gospel preaching brought them into something which the Bible calls fellowship.

I doubt that there is in any language an equivalent of the Greek word for fellowship, *koinonia*. This word implies oneness and also a mutual flowing among the believers. When we enjoy fellowship with one another, there is a flow among us....The flow, the current, we have in our spiritual fellowship involves both oneness and life. Our fellowship is a flow in oneness; it is an intercommunication among us as believers in Christ.

In the New Testament, fellowship describes both the flowing between us and the Lord and between us and one another. First John 1:3 says, "That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."...There is a flow, a current, vertically between us and the Father and the Son and horizontally between us and other believers. Praise the Lord that on

earth today there is something called fellowship, a fellowship among the children of God and a fellowship of the children of God with the Triune God!

Since the day of Pentecost a current has been flowing horizontally among the believers. This flow crosses space and time. As far as time is concerned, this fellowship has been flowing from generation to generation. As far as space is concerned, this fellowship is worldwide; it flows among believers throughout the globe. Because we are in this one flow, we cannot be separated by space. No matter where we may be, we are all in the flow; that is, we are all in the one fellowship.

According to Paul's word in 1 Corinthians 1:9, we all have been called by God into this fellowship. Perhaps the best illustration of fellowship is the circulation of blood in the human body...Life depends on this circulation. Just as there is the circulation of blood in the human body, so there is a spiritual circulation, called the fellowship, in the Body of Christ....It is crucial for us to realize that in the Lord's recovery we are being brought back into this flow, into this fellowship. (Life-study of 1 Corinthians, pp. 124-125)

The sign of the Lord's glorification signifies many things. It signifies that the old creation has been terminated and also that the new creation has been germinated. Adam has been terminated, and the new man has come into being. It was through this glorification that the old man was done away with and that the new man has been brought forth. Therefore, in resurrection the new man was born with glory. Even in the church life today there is at least some amount of glorification.

We all need to be clear that glory is the expression of the divine life and the divine nature. If we live by the divine life and nature, we will express the divine glory...The more the saints live by the divine life and the divine nature, the more glorious the church life is, the more divine glory there will be in the church. The expression of this glory is the glorification of the Lord Jesus. (CWWL, 1982, vol. 2, "The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John," p. 466)

Further Reading: Life-study of 1 Corinthians, msg. 11; The Issue of Christ Being Glorified by the Father with the Divine Glory, chs. 2-5



# « WEEK 5 — DAY 6 »

## Morning Nourishment

John 15:8 In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so you will become My disciples.

Eph. 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

The divine glorification continues today. This glorification began with the Lord's resurrection, and it is still going on. According to our viewpoint, we may say that the delivery that brought forth the Firstborn and the many brothers covers a long span of time, thus far, more than nineteen hundred years. In the sight of God, this delivery, although lengthy in time, is a matter of resurrection.

I believe that what the Lord has shown us concerning the divine glorification will help us to know what the church life is. The church life is actually the multiplication, the propagation, of Christ. This kind of church life is the divine glorification. The church has been produced in this glorification, and it continues to grow in the divine glorification. Whatever the church does in the matter of fruit-bearing is a continuation of the divine glorification. As the church spreads, this spreading is the fruit-bearing. For example, fifteen years ago there were only a small number of saints in the Lord's recovery in Europe. But now this number has increased. This increase is a matter of fruit-bearing, and fruit-bearing is the divine glorification. (CWWL, 1982, vol. 2, "The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John," pp. 474-475)

## Today's Reading

When we are filled in spirit unto all the fullness of God and honor our parents out of such an infilling, there will be the expression of God in our relationship to our parents. Our behavior will not be a mere human virtue; it will be a virtue with the divine character and with the flavor of Christ. As we honor our parents, there should be the sweet savor of Christ. This is the expression of God through human virtue. Suppose a young man honors his parents from a spirit filled unto all the fullness of God. In this virtue there will be the divine character. This is the

expression of God in humanity.

This expression of God is absolutely different from mere ethical behavior. Although the followers of Confucius may attain a high ethical standard, there is no flavor of Christ in their virtue. I repeat, in our virtue there needs to be the character of God and the flavor and taste of Christ. Such a divine expression through human virtue is conveyed by the Greek word for holiness in Ephesians 4:24. The church life must be filled with such an expression of divine character through human virtue.

In our honesty and generosity there needs to be the expression of the divine character. There are two kinds of honesty and two kinds of generosity: an honesty and a generosity that are mere human virtues, and an honesty and a generosity that express the character of God. In the church life our honesty and generosity must have the flavor of Christ. As others contact us, they should not only have the sense that we are virtuous; they should be able to sense in our virtue the flavor of Christ and see the expression of the divine character.

The key to the church life is the spirit of the mind. If we live according to the spirit of the mind, there will be in the church life the expression of the divine character. Then we shall be a corporate people with the flavor of Christ and the expression of God. If we simply give others the impression that we are good, righteous, and kind, our church life is a failure. There must be in our goodness, righteousness, and kindness the expression of the Triune God. The church life must be filled with the aroma and flavor of Christ and with the character of God. Such a living is the living of the Triune God through our humanity. For centuries, God has been longing for such a church life. We pray that before long this kind of church life will be fully practiced among us in the Lord's recovery. May the Lord be satisfied by seeing such an expression of Himself through the corporate new man on earth! (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 791-793)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1982, vol. 2, "The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John," chs. 38, 51

# « WEEK 5 — HYMN

## Remove the veils, Lord, from my heart

The Church — The Vision

1220

1. Re - move the veils, Lord, from my heart; True rev - e - la - tion  
grant to me; A vi - sion clear, O Lord, im - part Of Thy re - cov - er -  
y. (C) Of Thy re - cov - er - y. Of Thy re - cov - er -  
y. A vi - sion clear, O Lord, im - part Of Thy re - cov - er - y.

2. By revelation I perceive  
The power that raised Christ from the dead;  
When I by faith this power receive,  
I to the church am led.

3. Thy mighty power has set me free  
From all the world's distracting things;  
An entrance to the local church  
This mighty power brings.

4. Once in the local church, I need  
To take Thee as my person, Lord;  
My outward man each day recede,  
My heart is for the Lord.

5. I take Thee as my person, Lord;  
I have been crucified with Thee.  
My inner man has been restored;  
I'm now indwelt by Thee.

6. When all Thy members self forsake,  
Thy glorious Body, Lord, is known;  
When of Thy Person we partake,  
The one new man is shown.

7. The church life is the one new man  
In every local church expressed;  
Thy Body is a corporate man,  
One Person manifest.

*(Repeat the last two lines of each stanza)*

