

THE RECOVERY OF THE CHURCH

(Saturday—First Morning Session)

Message Seven

The Status of the Church—the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; 14:26

- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
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 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

I. Ephesians 1:22 and 23 reveal that the church is the Body of Christ:

- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- A. The church is not an organization but an organic Body constituted of all the believers, who have been regenerated and have God's life, for the expression of the Head—John 3:3, 5-6, 15; 1:12-13; 1 John 5:11-12.
- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- B. The Body is the fullness of the Head, and the fullness is the expression of the Head—Eph. 1:22-23.
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- C. Christ, as the One who fills all in all, needs the Body to be His fullness; this Body is the

church to be His fullness—3:10; 1:22-23; 4:10.

Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
Eph 4:10 He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)

D. The church is the Body of Christ, and Christ is the Head of the church (Col. 1:18; 2:19); hence, the church and Christ are one Body, the mysterious, universal great man (3:10-11; Eph. 2:15; 4:24), having the same life and nature:

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 And not 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.
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.
Eph 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

1. Christ is the life and content of the Body, and the Body is the organism and expression of Christ—Col. 3:4; 1:18; 2:19; Rom. 12:4-5.

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
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 And not 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.
Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

2. As the Body, the church receives everything from Christ; therefore, everything of Christ is expressed through the church—Eph. 1:22-23; 3:8, 10.

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

3. The two, Christ and the church as His Body, are mingled and joined as one, with Christ being the inward content and the church being the outward expression—vv. 16-21.

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are.
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

II. We need to see clearly how the Body of Christ has been formed:

- A. In Christ's resurrection the processed and consummated Triune God has been wrought into His chosen people—John 20:22; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; 1 Pet. 1:3.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

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

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

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- B. In Christ's ascension the all-inclusive, compound Spirit, as the consummation of the processed Triune God, descended upon His chosen people—Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:4, 32-33.

Luke 24:49 And behold, I send forth the promise of My Father upon you; but as for you, stay in the city until you put on power from on high.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, even as the Spirit gave to them to speak forth.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses.

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

- C. Within them God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people have Christ as the embodiment of the processed and consummated Triune God, and upon them they have the consummated Spirit—John 20:22; Luke 24:49.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 And behold, I send forth the promise of My Father upon you; but as for you, stay in the city until you put on power from on high.

- D. In this way the believers in Christ become the Body of Christ, an organism produced through the mingling of the processed and consummated Triune God with the transformed tripartite man—1 Cor. 12:13, 27; Eph. 5:30.

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 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.

III. The reality of the Body of Christ is the Spirit of the reality of the Triune God—4:4; John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13-14; 1 John 5:6:

- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

- A. Reality refers to the real condition of persons and things.
- B. The Body of Christ is the church, and all its reality is the Spirit of the reality of the consummated Triune God—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; John 16:13-14:

- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

1. The reality of the processed Triune God is His consummated Spirit of reality—14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6.

- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

2. The reality of all that the Triune God is, has, and can do is this Spirit of reality—John 16:13-14.

- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

3. The reality of the death and resurrection through which the Triune God has passed is also in the Spirit of reality—Eph. 2:5-6.

- Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)
- Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
4. The Spirit of reality makes everything of the processed Triune God a reality in the Body of Christ—1 John 5:6; Eph. 4:4.
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
5. All that the Triune God is, including righteousness, holiness, life, light, power, grace, and all the divine attributes, are realized by the Spirit of reality to be the real attributes of the Body of Christ—Rom. 15:16b; 14:17; Eph. 3:16-17a.
- Rom 15:16b ...might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
6. These attributes have been realized in the church by the Spirit in the Body of Christ; the church therefore possesses the reality of the divine attributes—v. 24; Col. 3:12-15.
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;
- Col 3:13 Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive.
- Col 3:14 And over all these things put on love, which is the uniting bond of perfectness.
- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
7. All that the Triune God in Christ experienced, including incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, are likewise realized by the Spirit of reality to be the real experiences of the Body of Christ—Rom. 6:3-6; Phil. 3:10.
- Rom 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
- Rom 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
- Rom 6:5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,
- Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

IV. The church as the Body of Christ is the corporate Christ—1 Cor. 12:12:

- 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.

- A. In 1 Corinthians 12:12 the Christ is not the individual Christ but the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ, composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body, with all the believers as its members:

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. The Bible considers Christ and the church as one mysterious Christ; the two have been joined together to become one mysterious Christ, the Body-Christ—Eph. 5:32.

Eph 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

2. All the believers of Christ are organically united with Him and constituted of His life and element to become His Body, an organism, to express Him—Rom. 12:4-5; Col. 3:4, 15.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

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

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

- B. As a vine includes not only the stalk but also the branches, so the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ, includes not only Christ Himself but also the members of Christ's Body, who are the members of Christ, parts of Christ—John 15:1, 4-5; Eph. 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:27; Rom. 12:5:

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.

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

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1. Christ is the element, the factor, that makes us parts of Him—Col. 3:10-11.

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.

2. In order to be parts of Christ, members of His Body, we must have Christ wrought into our being—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:16-17.

Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

Gal 1:16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,

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 in 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,

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

3. The church can be the Body of Christ, the corporate Christ, only as the members are constituted of Christ, possessing His life and nature—Col. 3:4, 10-11.

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.

C. The baptism into the one Body has positioned us all to drink of the one Spirit, and by drinking of the Spirit, we are constituted to be the Body, the corporate Christ—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.

1. By drinking the Spirit, we experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity into our being and are constituted to be the Body.

2. The more we drink the one Spirit, the more the divine element becomes our constituent to make us the one Body, the Body-Christ—vv. 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.

V. For the building up of the Body of Christ, we need to practice the scriptural way to meet and to serve—14:26; Heb. 10:24-25:

1 Cor 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another so as to incite one another to love and good works,

Heb 10:25 Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.

A. Without the biblical way for us to meet and to serve, the way that is shown in the New Testament, the Lord's words concerning the building up of the church cannot be fulfilled—Matt. 24:35; 16:18; Eph. 4:11-16.

Matt 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall by no means pass away.

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.

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

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

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

B. If 1 Corinthians 14:26 and Hebrews 10:24-25 are not fulfilled, there is no way for the

building up of the church as the Body of Christ.

1 Cor 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another so as to incite one another to love and good works,

Heb 10:25 Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.

- C. The scriptural way to meet and to serve, with all the saints functioning as living members of the Body of Christ, is versus the traditional way, the natural way, to meet and to serve, which is in the principle of the clergy-laity system—Rev. 2:6, 15:

Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Rev 2:15 In the same way you also have some who hold in like manner the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

1. The traditional way fits man's natural and fallen condition, is religious, and accommodates the dead man's taste—cf. Matt. 25:23-30.

Matt 25:23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

Matt 25:24 Then he who had received the one talent also came and said, Master, I knew about you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow.

Matt 25:25 And I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the earth; behold, you have what is yours.

Matt 25:26 And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow.

Matt 25:27 Therefore you should have deposited my money with the money changers; and when I came, I would have recovered what is mine with interest.

Matt 25:28 Take away therefore the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.

Matt 25:29 For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him.

Matt 25:30 And cast out the useless slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

2. The traditional way binds and annuls the organic function of the living members of Christ and chokes and kills the members of Christ—Rev. 2:6.

Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

3. The scriptural way is spiritual, fits the taste of the living and spiritual man, and requires us to be living and in the spirit—John 4:23-24; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:4; 2 Tim. 1:6-7.

John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

2 Tim 1:6 For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

4. The scriptural way is able to develop the organic ability and function of the members of

Christ and able to build up the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:12-16.

- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

D. The Lord desires to recover the organic building up of the Body of Christ:

1. The organic building up of the Body of Christ is the increase of the Triune God in the believers for their growth in Christ—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.

- Col 2:19 And not 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.
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

2. The Lord desires to recover the church meetings in mutuality with all prophesying (speaking for the Lord) for the building up of the church; prophesying is the excelling way to dispense the riches of Christ into God's people for the organic building up of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 14:4b, 12, 31; cf. Matt. 16:18.

- 1 Cor 14:4b ...but he who prophesies builds up the church.
- 1 Cor 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of spirits, seek that you may excel for the building up of the church.
- 1 Cor 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
- 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.