

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Seven : The Status of the Church -- the Body of Christ

I. Overview :

Ephesians 1:22 and 23 reveal that the church is the Body of Christ constituted of all the believes, who have God's life, for the expression of the Head. The Body of Christ has been formed in Christ's resurrection; the Triune God has been wrought into His chosen people. In Christ's ascension the compound Spirit descended upon His chosen people. The reality of the Body of Christ is the Spirit of the reality of the Triune God; all that the Triune God is realized by the Spirit of reality. The church as the Body of Christ is the corporate Christ; by drinking the Spirit, we experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity into our being and are constituted to be the Body. For the building up of the Body of Christ, we need to practice the scriptural way to meet and to serve.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. How was the Body of Christ formed?

First, in resurrection the processed Triune God has been wrought into His chosen people. Then, in Christ's ascension, the all-inclusive, compound Spirit as the consummation of the processed Triune God descended upon His chosen people. As a result, they become the Body of Christ, an entity produced through the mingling of the processed Triune God with the transformed tripartite man.

B. In which 3 stages is the mingling of God with man consummating in the New Jerusalem completed?

The first stage extends from God's incarnation to Christ's breathing Himself in resurrection into God's chosen people. The second stage in ascension the Son received of the Father the promised Spirit, pouring Himself out upon the believes. Now a third stage is needed for the increase of the Body unto all the fullness of God, unto the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Day 2 --

A. What are the effects with the Spirit of reality for our spiritual experience?

This Spirit of reality makes everything of the processed Triune God a reality in the Body of Christ. It is the Spirit of reality who makes all that the processed Triune God is, including righteousness, holiness, life, light, power, grace, and all the divine attributes, are realized by this Spirit of reality to be the real attributes of the Body of Christ.

B. How're the essence and reality of the Body of Christ matters of the Spirit?

Whether essence or reality, it's all a matter of this Spirit. Essence emphasizes the inward substance, while reality emphasizes the outward realization. Because the Spirit is the inward substance of the Body of Christ, He is also it's outward realization. Both the inward essence and substance and the outward reality and realization are of the Spirit.

Day 3 --

A. Explain 1 Cor. 12:12, Christ is not the individual Christ but the corporate.

In Greek "Christ" in this verse is "the Christ," referring to the corporate Christ, composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body with all the believers as its members.

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. Hence, He is not only the Head but also the Body.

B. Expound the way to be constituted of Christ to be His Body.

In one Spirit we have all been baptized into one Body. The baptism into the one Body has positioned us all to drink, and by drinking of the Spirit, we are constituted to be the Body. By drinking the Spirit, we experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity into our being and are constituted to be the Body.

Day 4 --

A. How are 1 Cor. 14:26 & Heb. 10:25 not fulfilled, there is no way for the building up of the house of God?

When Christians have a proper way to meet and to serve, that will afford the Lord the possibility to build up the church as the dwelling place of God and as the Body of Christ. I have the assurance that right now the Lord is doing something to bring His people back to the God-ordained way to meet and to serve that He may accomplish all He has prophesied and promised concerning the building up of His church.

B. Explain the different points concerning the traditional way to meet.

The traditional way is natural, fitting man's natural and fallen condition, does not require man to be living or in the spirit, and is also religious. The so-called church service just accommodated these dead people. Many of them were happy because they had a kind of social life, which they called the church.

Day 5 --

A. Show the scriptural way to meet and to serve.

This way is spiritual. It fits the taste of the living and spiritual man and requires man to be living and in the spirit. To take this way surely requires us always to pay a price. We need to be revived, to live a victorious life, and to walk by and according to the spirit. For this way to be prevailing, we also need to have an uninterrupted fellowship with the Lord daily.

B. How has the traditional way bound and annulled the members' function?

The traditional way has not only bound and annulled the spiritual function of the members of Christ but also has choked and even killed the living members of Christ. On the one hand, the traditional way feeds people, but on the other hand, because of the clerical class, in many aspects it frustrates the believes from growing in life and even chokes them to death. Hence, most of the believes are spiritually dead in their church services.

Day 6 --

A. How do the gifted persons revealed in Eph. 4:12 do their work?

Eph. 4:12 tells us that the gifted persons do their work to perfect the saints that the saints may carry out the work of the ministry for the building up of the Body of Christ. Every joint of the rich supply refers to the specially gifted persons, and each one part refers to every member of the Body. After we are perfected by the gifted persons, we have to function.

B. How is dispensing by prophesying for building up? Using an illustration.

It can be illustrated by the dispensing of food by a mother. Day by day a mother distributes, or dispenses, food to her little baby until he becomes a strong and husky boy. To prophesy is to distribute, to dispense, the Triune God as the rich food, the nourishing element, into others.

III. Conclusion :

Christians all desire for the Lord's coming back. On the one hand, He will come to terminate this age, but on the other hand, He also comes to set up a throne of judgement to examine if our livings match up to Him in life and service. God wants to come back is conditional; His words must be fulfilled, especially in 1 Cor. 14:26 and Heb. 10:25. That is the new way which we have mentioned many times, building up a frame for gospel preaching and home meeting, cultivating a habit of begetting and shepherding; the purpose is to make everyone function, all of us serve, and all prophesy one by one mutually in the meeting. Thus, it incites the members of the Body of Christ to function so as to build up the organic Body of Christ to issuing in the Lord's coming back.