

Message Three

The Creation and Bringing Forth of the One New Man

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:9, 11; 3:9; 2:15-16; 4:22-24

- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- 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 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.
- Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
- Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

Outline

- I. **“The co-workers and the elders, who take the lead in the Lord’s recovery, must realize that the Lord’s recovery is resting upon their shoulders. What the recovery will be depends upon what they will be” (The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1994-1997, vol. 4, “The Divine and Mystical Realm,” p. 99):**

- A. “I am quite concerned for all the co-workers and elders. It may be that a good number of them do not have a complete understanding of what the Lord’s recovery is” (p. 92).
- B. “Regarding the Lord’s present recovery, I hope that none of you would be held back by your old theology or by your old understanding of the recovery” (p. 93).
- C. In the last days of this age, before the Lord will be able to return, we must see the vision of the one Body and the one new man—1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:4; 2:15-16; 4:24.

- 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.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- 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 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

- D. The church, the Body of Christ, is the one new man to accomplish God’s eternal purpose—

1:9, 11; 3:9; Rom. 8:29; 2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 2:15-16; 4:22-24:

- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- 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 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.
- Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
- Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

1. The emphasis on the church being the Body of Christ is on life, whereas the emphasis on the church being the one new man is on the person.
2. As the Body of Christ, the church needs Christ as its life; as the one new man, the church needs Christ as its person.

E. The Bible reveals that the one new man is a corporate, universal man—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11:

- 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.
- 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.

1. We, the believers in Christ, are all one with Christ to be the new man; thus, we all are parts, components, of the corporate one new man.
2. The one new man is a corporate God-man, the aggregate of all the God-men; when we put all the God-men together, we have the one new man.

II. The new man as the poem, the masterpiece, of God was created through Christ's death on the cross—Eph. 2:10, 15-16:

- Eph 2:10 For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.
- 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 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity

by it.

- A. We need to pay careful attention to two phrases in verse 15: in His flesh and in Himself:

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,

1. “In His flesh” Christ terminated all the negative things in the universe: Satan, the devil, the enemy of God (Heb. 2:14); sin (Rom. 8:3; John 1:29); the flesh of fallen man (Gal. 5:24); the world, the cosmos, the evil system of Satan (John 12:31); the old creation, represented by the old man (Rom. 6:6); and the separating ordinances of the law (Eph. 2:15).

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Gal 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

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;

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,

2. “In Himself” as the sphere, element, and essence, Christ created the Jews and the Gentiles into one new man:

a. Christ is not only the Creator of the one new man, the church, but also the sphere in which and the element and essence with which the new man was created.

b. He is the very element and essence of the one new man, making God’s divine nature one entity with humanity—cf. 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.

- B. In the creating of the new man, first our natural man was crucified by Christ, and then through the crossing out of the old man, Christ imparted the divine element into us, causing us to become a new entity, a new invention of God—Rom. 6:6; 2 Cor. 5:17.

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;

2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

- C. The one new man created through the creating death of Christ equals the Body formed in Christ’s resurrection and ascension; hence, the one new man and the Body are synonymous terms and may be used interchangeably—Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 2:19; 3:10-11.

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 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

- 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.

III. On the cross Christ created the new man in Himself by abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, the middle wall of partition—Eph. 2:14-15a:

Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,

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,

A. The law spoken of in 2:15 is not the law of the moral commandments but the law of ritual commandments, such as the ordinances of circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, and eating certain foods.

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,

B. Ordinances are the forms or ways of living and worship, which create enmity and division:

1. On the cross Christ abolished all the regulations regarding living and worship, regulations that have divided the nations—v. 15; Col. 2:14.

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,

Col 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

2. From the time of Babel, mankind has been divided by ordinances concerning the ways of living and worship; in God's economy in the church life, we must overcome Babel—Gen. 11:1-9.

Gen 11:1 And the whole earth had one language and the same speech.

Gen 11:2 And as they journeyed east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

Gen 11:3 And they said to one another, Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and they had tar for mortar.

Gen 11:4 And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the surface of the whole earth.

Gen 11:5 And Jehovah came down to see the city and the tower which the children of men had built.

Gen 11:6 And Jehovah said, Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing which they purpose to do will be kept from them.

Gen 11:7 Come, let Us go down and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Gen 11:8 So Jehovah scattered them from there over the surface of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

Gen 11:9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there Jehovah confounded the language of all the earth, and from there Jehovah scattered them over the surface of all the earth.

3. Due to man's fall there are many ordinances, many customs, habits, ways to live, and ways to worship; all these differences among peoples have divided, scattered, and confused mankind.

4. One of the main elements of ordinances is language; our very language can become an ordinance:

a. On the day of Pentecost the divisions caused by language were overcome, and the church as the one new man came into existence—Acts 2:1-11.

Acts 2:1 And as the day of Pentecost was being fulfilled, they were all together in the same place.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there was a sound out of heaven, as of a rushing violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which were distributed; and it sat on each one of them;

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 2:5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and was confounded because each one heard them speaking in his own dialect.

Acts 2:7 And they were amazed and marveled, saying, Behold, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?

Acts 2:8 And how is it that we each hear them in our own dialect in which we were born?

Acts 2:9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and those dwelling in Mesopotamia, both in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia,

Acts 2:10 Both in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, and the sojourning of Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

Acts 2:11 Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues the magnificent works of God?

b. If we can overcome the difficulty presented by language, a great part of our problem with ordinances will be solved—6:1 and footnote 1.

Acts 6:1 And in these days, as the disciples were multiplying in number, a murmuring of the Hellenists against the Hebrews occurred, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily dispensing.

footnote 1 Jews who spoke Greek. At the very beginning of the practice of the church life, trouble was caused by language differences; proper care was taken to solve this.

IV. The more we are in the mingled spirit, in the mingling of the divine Spirit with the human spirit, the more we shall be set free from ordinances in order to bring forth the one new man—Eph. 2:18, 22; 4:23-24; 6:18:

Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father.

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

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

Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

- A. The cross abolished the ordinances in order to give place to the Spirit, in whom we have access unto the Father—2:18:

Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father.

1. If we have ordinances, we do not have the Spirit, but if we have the Spirit, we shall not have ordinances:

a. The church life does not consist of ordinances but of the living Spirit.

b. The church is the reprint of the Spirit—Zech. 4:2-6.

Zech 4:2 And he said to me, What do you see? And I said, I see that there is a lampstand all of gold, with its bowl on top of it and its seven lamps upon it, with seven pipes for each of the lamps on top of it;

Zech 4:3 And there are two olive trees beside it, one to the right of the bowl and one to the left.

Zech 4:4 And I answered and spoke to the angel who spoke with me, saying, What are these, sir?

Zech 4:5 And the angel who spoke with me answered and said to me, Do you not know what these are? And I said, No, sir.

Zech 4:6 And he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts.

c. “No Spirit, no church. More Spirit, more church”—1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4.

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.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

2. As long as we are not in the Spirit, anything we do is an ordinance—cf. 2 Cor. 3:6.

2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

- B. “Neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters”—Gal. 6:15:

Gal 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.

1. The only thing that matters is the new man as the new creation, the masterpiece of life with the divine nature—v. 15; Eph. 2:10.

Gal 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.

Eph 2:10 For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

2. To be a new creation is to have Christ wrought into our being—3:16-17.

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. When Christ is realized through the Spirit in our spirit, we become the new creation, the new man—Gal. 6:18; Eph. 4:23-24.

Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

V. The goal of the Lord's recovery is to bring forth the one new man—2:15; 4:22-24; Col. 3:10-11:

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 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
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.

A. What was divided and scattered in the old man is recovered in the new man—Gen. 11:5-9; Acts 2:5-12; Col. 3:10-11:

Gen 11:5 And Jehovah came down to see the city and the tower which the children of men had built.
Gen 11:6 And Jehovah said, Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing which they purpose to do will be kept from them.
Gen 11:7 Come, let Us go down and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.
Gen 11:8 So Jehovah scattered them from there over the surface of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.
Gen 11:9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there Jehovah confounded the language of all the earth, and from there Jehovah scattered them over the surface of all the earth.
Acts 2:5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
Acts 2:6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and was confounded because each one heard them speaking in his own dialect.
Acts 2:7 And they were amazed and marveled, saying, Behold, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
Acts 2:8 And how is it that we each hear them in our own dialect in which we were born?
Acts 2:9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and those dwelling in Mesopotamia, both in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia,
Acts 2:10 Both in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, and the sojourning of Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
Acts 2:11 Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues the magnificent works of God?
Acts 2:12 And they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, What does this mean?
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.

1. In the old man, man was divided and scattered; in the new man, man is gathered and made

one.

2. In the world the more different and individualistic a person is, the better; this is contrary to God's economy, which is to gather and to make one.

3. To put off the old man is to put off the divided and scattered man; to put on the new man is to put on the gathered and one new man—Eph. 4:22, 24.

Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,

Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

B. Christ should be our only source; we should not allow anything of our background, culture, or nationality to be our source—cf. 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.

1. The worldly people regard cultural differences as a source of prestige, but in Christ we have lost this prestige; now our only prestige is Christ and the genuine oneness.

2. If we are willing to let go of our cultural pride, it will be possible for the Lord to have the proper church life.

C. What the Lord has been doing and is now doing in His recovery is bringing forth the one new man with Himself as the life and the person for God's expression—Eph. 3:17-19; Col. 3:4, 10-11.

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.

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.

D. The one new man will usher in the kingdom of God and will bring Christ, the King, back to this earth—Rev. 11:15.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

E. Now is the time for God to accomplish His purpose to perfect the one new man, who will come into full existence on earth—Eph. 4:11-13, 24:

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 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

1. The world situation has been raised up for the goal of the one new man.
 2. Everything that the Lord is doing in the present age is to usher in the practical existence of the one new man.
 3. Because of the advances in technology, there is now the possibility that the saints in every locality in their environmental circumstances will become the one new man in reality and in practicality.
- F. When the one new man is perfected, that will be the time for the Lord's coming, and the perfected new man will be the bride—Rev. 19:7.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.