

Message Four
**Taking Christ as Our Person
for the One New Man**

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; 3:17a; Col. 1:27; 3:4, 10-11; Gal. 2:20

- 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.
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- 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.
- 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.

Outline

I. For the new man we all need to take Christ as our person—Eph. 2:15; 3:17a:

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

A. In the one new man there is only one person—Christ—v. 17a; 4:24.

- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

B. We need to see that the church is the one new man and that in this new man we have no place, for Christ is all—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.

- C. Christ is in all of us as one person; therefore, we all have only one person—Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; Eph. 3:17a.

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.

Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

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

- D. In the new man all of us are simply one man; the requirement that everyone be only one man is extremely high—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.

- E. The new man is not about members (Rom. 12:4-5) but about the person; therefore, we all need to ask, “Who is my person—I or the Lord Jesus?”

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.

- F. What God cares for is whether we live by Christ and take Christ as our person—John 6:57b; Phil. 1:21a; Col. 3:4; Eph. 3:17a:

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

Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

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

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

1. We should not only eat Christ’s riches in order to take them in and assimilate them into our being; we should also allow Christ to be our person—vv. 8, 17a.

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

2. We should take Christ not only to be our life but also to be our person.

II. For the practical existence of the one new man, the total person of the old man must be put away, and we must live by our new person—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:22-24; 3:17a:

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;

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.

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.
 Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- A. Realizing that our former person has been crucified, we should no longer live in that person, by that person, and with that person—Rom. 6:6.
 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;
- B. We must deny our former person—“the old man” and the “outer man”—and live by our new person—“the inner man”—Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9; 2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 3:16.
 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,
 Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his practices
 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
 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,
- C. Our standard for being a Christian should not be right or wrong, good or bad, but a person; the crucial matter is not what we are doing but who is doing it.
- D. We should care not for the adjustment of our outward behavior but for the inward shifting from the old person to the new person—Gal. 2:20.
 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.

III. When we live our life by taking Christ as our person, especially in making decisions, our living will be the living of the new man—John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 17:4; Rom. 15:32; James 4:13-15:

- John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.
 John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
 John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
 John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth, finishing the work which You have given Me to do.
 Rom 15:32 So that coming to you in joy through the will of God, I may refresh myself and rest with you.
 James 4:13 Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go into this or that city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit;
 James 4:14 Whereas you do not know the matter of tomorrow, what your life will be; for you are a vapor, which appears for a little while and then disappears.
 James 4:15 Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will both live and do this or that.
- A. Whereas the Body is for moving, the new man is for living, and eighty to ninety percent of our living is in making decisions—Phil. 1:21-26.
 Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil 1:22 But if I am to live in the flesh, if this to me is fruit for my work, then I do not know what I will choose.

Phil 1:23 But I am constrained between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for this is far better;

Phil 1:24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Phil 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of the faith,

Phil 1:26 That your boast may abound in Christ Jesus in me through my coming again to you.

B. In the new man we take Christ as our person to make plans and to decide how we should live—Rom. 15:32.

Rom 15:32 So that coming to you in joy through the will of God, I may refresh myself and rest with you.

C. We need to live a life in the new man by taking Christ as our person, with Him as the One making all the decisions in us.

D. If we take Christ as our person, we will not decide anything in our life by ourselves—Philem. 14:

Philem 14 But without your mind I did not want to do anything, that your goodness would not be as of necessity, but voluntary.

1. Once we see that we are a part of the one new man, we will not be able to decide things merely by ourselves.

2. Since we are part of the new man, our decisions and our living should not be ours; they should be the decisions and living of the corporate new man; this is the ultimate requirement.

3. The living of the new man is a corporate living; therefore, our decisions are corporate decisions and not personal decisions—1 Cor. 4:17.

1 Cor 4:17 Because of this I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every church.

4. We need to see that we are a corporate Body and a corporate new man and that both our living and our moving are corporate—12:12; Rom. 12:4-5.

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

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.

IV. Paul is a pattern of taking Christ as our person for the one new man—1 Tim. 1:16:

1 Tim 1:16 But because of this I was shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ might display all His long-suffering for a pattern to those who are to believe on Him unto eternal life.

A. “It pleased God...to reveal His Son in me”—Gal. 1:15a, 16a:

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,

1. Nothing is more pleasing to God than the unveiling of the living person of the Son of God.
2. We need to be brought into a state where we are full of the revelation of the Son of God and thereby become a new creation with Christ living in us.

B. “I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me”—2:20a:

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.

1. Paul did not say that the life of Christ lived in him but that Christ the person lived in him.
2. God’s economy is that the “I” be crucified in Christ’s death and that Christ live in us in His resurrection.

C. “My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you”—4:19:

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

1. To have Christ formed in us is to have Christ fully grown in us.
2. Christ has been born into us, He is now living in us, and He will be formed in us at our maturity.

D. “That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith”—Eph. 3:17a:

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

1. God the Father is exercising His authority through God the Spirit to strengthen us into the inner man that God the Son may make His home deep down in our heart.
2. If we allow Christ to have all the room within us and if we give Him the full liberty to do whatever He wants in us, our heart will become His home.

E. “God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus”—Phil. 1:8:

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

1. Paul did not live a life in his natural inner being; he lived a life in the inward parts of Christ, experienced Christ in His inward parts, and was one with Christ in His inward parts.
2. Paul did not keep his own inward parts but took Christ’s inward parts as his; Paul’s inner being was reconstituted with the inward parts of Christ.

F. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”—2:5:

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

1. To let Christ’s mind be in us is to take Christ as our person by denying our natural mind and taking His mind.
2. If we intend to take Christ as our person, we must be willing to deny our mind and have our mind replaced by the mind of Christ.

G. “For also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ”—2 Cor. 2:10b:

2 Cor 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;

1. Paul lived Christ in the closest and most intimate contact with Him, acting according to the index of His eyes.
2. Paul was a person who was one with Christ, full of Christ, and saturated with Christ; he was a person broken and even terminated in his natural life, softened and flexible in his will, affectionate yet restricted in his emotion, considerate and sober in his mind, and pure and genuine in his spirit toward the saints for their benefit.

H. “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”—Rom. 8:4:

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.

1. In practicality, to take Christ as our person is to have our being wholly according to the mingled spirit.
2. In our daily life we should not have our being according to teaching, feelings, concepts, or circumstances but according to the mingled spirit, taking Christ as our person for the universal one new man.

V. If we are unveiled and enlightened, we will see that today in the Lord’s recovery we need to rise up together to take Christ as our person for the one new man—Eph. 3:17a; 4:24, 11-13:

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

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

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,

A. The gifted persons—the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers—should take this as their goal—v. 11; 3:17a.

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

B. We need to perfect the saints in every locality so that they may enter into a situation where they take Christ as their person for the one new man—4:11-13.

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,

C. If all the saints in the Lord’s recovery take Christ as their person, then spontaneously we all

will be the one new man—3:17a; 4:24.

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

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

- D. “Ultimately, the Bible speaks of the church as the one new man...In the new man there is nothing but the person. This level is so high that it cannot be higher, so strict that it cannot be stricter, and so intimate that it cannot be more intimate. All are one new man; this one new man has only one person, and this person is the Lord Jesus” (The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1977, vol. 3, “One Body, One Spirit, and One New Man,” p. 332).