

Message Two

Living in the Divine Trinity

(1)

Abiding in Christ as the True Vine

Scripture Reading: John 15:1, 4-5; 1 John 2:6, 20, 24, 27; 3:22-24

I. We need to see the practical experience of living in and with the Divine Trinity—John 14:20, 26; 15:26; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 3:16-17:

- A. The Gospel of John is a book on living in and with the Divine Trinity—15:1, 4-5.
- B. The truth concerning living in and with the Divine Trinity is greatly expounded in the Epistles, especially in those written by Paul.
- C. In the Epistles we can see all the practicalities and details of living in and with the Divine Trinity.
- D. We need to be brought into the experiences of living in the Divine Trinity and with the Divine Trinity.

II. The Lord Jesus told us in John 15 that He is the vine and that we are the branches of the vine—v. 5:

- A. As the branches of the vine, we should abide in Him; then He will abide in us—vv. 4-5.
- B. To abide in Christ is to live in Christ, and to live in Christ is to live in the Divine Trinity—Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 1:30.
- C. To have Christ abide in us is to have the Triune God living in us; this is to live with the Divine Trinity—John 15:4-5; Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor. 13:14.
- D. When we abide in Him, we live in Him, and when we have Him abide in us, we live with Him—John 15:4-5, 7.

III. We live in the Divine Trinity by abiding in Christ as the true vine—vv. 1, 5:

- A. The true vine with its branches—Christ the Son with the believers in the Son—is the organism of the Triune God in the divine economy to grow with His riches and express His life—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:9; John 15:1, 5:
 - 1. The function of the true vine as a sign of the Son is for the Triune God to have an organism in the Son for His multiplication, spreading, and glorification in His divine life—vv. 8, 16.
 - 2. The Father as the husbandman is the source and the founder; God the Son is the center, the embodiment, and the manifestation; God the Spirit is the reality and realization; and the branches are the Body, the corporate expression—vv. 1, 4-5, 26:
 - a. All that the Father is and has is embodied in Christ the Son and then realized in the Spirit as the reality—16:13-15.
 - b. All that the Spirit has is wrought into us, the branches, to be expressed and testified through us; in this way the processed Triune God is expressed, manifested, and glorified in the church—Eph. 3:16-21.
- B. As branches of the vine, we need to abide in the vine—John 15:4-5:
 - 1. When we believed in the Lord Jesus, He branched into us, and we became branches in Him—3:15.
 - 2. To be in the Lord is a matter of union; to abide in the Lord is a matter of fellowship—1 Cor. 1:9, 30.

3. Our abiding in Christ as the vine depends on seeing a clear vision that we are branches in the vine; once we see that we are branches in the vine, we need to maintain the fellowship between us and the Lord—John 15:2.
4. The Christian life is a life of abiding in the Lord—1 John 2:24, 27-28; 4:13:
 - a. To abide in the Lord is to be one spirit with Him—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - b. Our abiding in Christ is the condition of His abiding in us—John 15:4a, 5a.
- C. We need to abide in the Lord, in the Son, in the Father, and in God—1 John 2:6, 24; 3:22-24:
 1. To abide in Christ is to abide in the Lord—2:6:
 - a. The Lord is the One who possesses all things, rules over all things, and exercises His sovereignty over all things and all people—Rev. 1:5.
 - b. We are living in the One who is the Lord of the universe—Eph. 1:20-23.
 2. To abide in the Son concerns the sonship of Christ—Matt. 3:17; 17:5:
 - a. The Son is the One who possesses the Father's life with the Father's nature to express the Father—John 5:26.
 - b. When we are abiding in the Son, we enjoy our Father's life and nature and the right to express Him and enjoy all His possessions—Eph. 1:14.
 3. We are also abiding in the Father, who takes care of us in every way and in everything—1 John 2:24:
 - a. When we abide in the Son, we abide in the Father because the Son and the Father are one—vv. 23-24.
 - b. When we are living in the Triune God, we are living as sons—Heb. 2:10.
 4. We need to be those who are abiding in God—1 John 3:24:
 - a. To abide in God is to have the faith in the Son of God and to have the love of God to love all the brothers—v. 23.
 - b. We abide in God by the Spirit of God; the link between us and God, the Father, the Son, the Lord, and Christ is the Spirit—vv. 22-24.
- D. We abide in the Triune God by the teaching of the anointing—2:27:
 1. The anointing is the moving and the working of the indwelling compound Spirit, the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit—v. 20; 1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:6.
 2. We abide in the divine fellowship with Christ by experiencing the cleansing of the Lord's blood and the application of the anointing Spirit to our inner being—John 15:4-5; 1 John 1:5, 7; 2:20, 27.
 3. Christ as the Head is the anointed One and the anointing One, and we are His members enjoying Him as the inner anointing—2 Cor. 1:21-22.
 4. The anointing, as the moving and working of the compound Spirit within us, anoints God into us so that we may be saturated with God, possess God, and understand the mind of God; the anointing communicates the mind of Christ as the Head of the Body to His members by the inner sense, the inner consciousness, of life—Psa. 133; 1 Cor. 2:16; Rom. 8:6, 27.
 5. The teaching of the anointing of the Spirit is an inner sense of life—Acts 16:6-7; 2 Cor. 2:13.
 6. If our natural life is dealt with by the cross and if we submit to the headship of Christ and live the Body life, we will have the Spirit's anointing and enjoy the fellowship of the Body—Eph. 4:3-6, 15-16.