

## Message Four

### Grafted into Christ to Become Part of the Tree of Life

JL Hymns: 482

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:9; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 11:17, 24; John 15:1, 4-5

- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,
- Rom 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!
- 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.

#### I. The Bible reveals that the relationship God desires to have with man is that He and man become one—1 Cor. 6:17:

- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- A. Whenever we come to the Bible, we need to exercise one principle—the principle that God desires to be one with His chosen people—John 14:20.  
John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- B. God's main purpose is to make Himself one with man and to make man one with Him—Eph. 4:4-6.  
Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;  
Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- C. God desires that the divine life and the human life be joined to become one life.
- D. The central line of God's economy is to make God and man, man and God, one entity, with the two having one living by one life with one nature—Rev. 22:17.  
Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.
- E. In His incarnation Christ brought God into man, and in His resurrection He brought man into God; by this, He accomplished the mingling of God and man into one—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4:  
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,  
Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,  
Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
1. We are in Christ, and He is in us; He and we have become one person—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.
  2. Christ has become us, and we have become Him—Heb. 2:14, 11.  
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,  
Heb 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

#### II. The relationship God desires to have with man is that He and man be grafted

**together and thus become one in an organic union—Rom. 6:3-5; John 15:4-5:**

- 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,
- 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.
- A. The grafted life is not an exchanged life—it is the mingling of the human life with the divine life—1 Cor. 6:17.  
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- B. In grafting, two similar lives are joined and then grow together organically—Rom. 11:24:  
Rom 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!
1. Because our human life was made in the image of God and according to the likeness of God, it can be joined to the divine life—Gen. 1:26.  
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
  2. Our human life resembles the divine life; therefore, the divine life and the human life can be grafted together and live together.
- C. In order for us to be grafted into Christ, He had to pass through the processes of incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection to become the life-giving Spirit—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 2:2; 15:45.  
John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.  
1 Cor 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.  
1 Cor 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- D. We have been grafted into Christ as the tree of life, and this grafting has made us one with Him—Rom. 11:24:  
Rom 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!
1. Christ and the believers are one tree; He is the vine, and we are the branches—John 15:1, 5a, 4a.  
John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.  
John 15:5a I am the vine; you are the branches. ...  
John 15:4a Abide in Me and I in you. ...
  2. Christ becomes our life, nature, and person—Col. 3:4, 10-11; Eph. 3:17a.  
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.  
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- E. As regenerated ones who have been grafted into Christ, we should live a grafted life, a life in which two parties are joined to grow organically:

1. Since we have been grafted into Christ, we should no longer live by ourselves; rather, we should allow the pneumatic Christ to live in us—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.
  2. We should no longer live by our flesh or by our natural being; rather, we should live a grafted life by the mingled spirit—the divine Spirit mingled with the regenerated human spirit—1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:4.  
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.  
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.
- F. In the grafted life the human life is not eliminated but is strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine life—Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:16-17a:
- 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.
- 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 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
1. In the grafted life the branch retains its same essential characteristics but is strengthened, uplifted, and transformed by being grafted into a higher life—John 15:4-5; Rom. 11:17.  
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.  
Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,
  2. In the grafted life the divine life works within us to discharge the negative elements:
    - a. The divine life works in a gradual way to eliminate whatever is natural.
    - b. The divine life swallows up our defects and infirmities.
    - c. The negative element of our disposition is killed, and then, instead of casting away our disposition, the Lord uplifts and uses it.
  3. In the grafted life the divine life resurrects God’s original creation and uplifts our faculties—John 11:25; Eph. 4:23:  
John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;  
Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
    - a. As the divine life discharges the negative things, it works to resurrect God’s original creation.
    - b. In this way our original functions—the functions given to us at creation—are restored, strengthened, and uplifted—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.
  4. In the grafted life the divine life supplies the riches of Christ to our inward parts and saturates our whole being—Rom. 12:2; 8:29-30.  
Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.  
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;

Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

### **III. Christ as the tree of life is the embodiment of God as life to us, and having been grafted into Christ, we are united to Him organically, and thus we are part of the tree of life—Col. 2:9; John 15:1, 4-5:**

- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,  
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.
- A. We not only eat Christ as the tree of life—we are united to Him and are part of Him—1 Cor. 6:17.  
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- B. The tree of life is for the dispensing of the divine life into us; as we, the branches, abide in the vine, we receive the dispensing of life from the tree of life and live as part of the tree of life—John 15:5; Rom. 8:2, 10, 6, 11; cf. Phil. 4:13.  
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.  
Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.  
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.  
Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.  
Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.  
Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
- C. Christ as the tree of life is for the divine economy to dispense Himself into us; as the branches of the vine, we are abiding in Him, and He is abiding in us.
- D. As we abide in the vine, there is a dispensing of God into us, a dispensing of life from the tree of life into the branches; this dispensing makes us God-men—Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.  
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.  
Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.  
Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- E. To abide in Christ as the vine is to take Him as our dwelling place, which is the highest and fullest experience of God; to dwell in Christ is to have our living in Christ, taking Him as our everything—Psa. 90:1; 91:1, 9.  
Psa 90:1 O Lord, You have been our dwelling place / In all generations.  
Psa 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High / Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.  
Psa 91:9 For You have made Jehovah, who is my refuge, / Even the Most High, Your habitation;
- F. If we live as part of the tree of life, we will care not for good and evil but for life, and we will discern matters not according to right and wrong but according to life and death—Gen. 2:9, 16-17; 2 Cor. 11:3.  
Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.  
Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

2 Cor 11:3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.