

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**

### **Message Twenty-Two : The Creator of the One New Man as the Masterpiece of God**

#### **I. Overview:**

God created man in His own image for His expression and gave man His dominion so that man would represent Him to deal with His enemy. The church as the new man in the new creation bears God's image for God's expression and fights against God's enemy for God's kingdom. What was divided and scattered in the old man is recovered in the new man as the poem of God, expressing God's infinite wisdom and divine design. On the cross Christ abolished all the regulations; in God's economy in the church life, we must overcome Babel. If we allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts, we will have peace with God vertically and with the saints horizontally. In the one new man there is only one person, Christ. For the new man we all need to take Christ as our person. Although we are many, we all have one mouth, and we all speak the same thing; this is because we all are the one new man having only one person.

#### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Explain the purpose of God creating man.

The human life is the highest created life. Adam, the first man, typifies Christ as the center of God's creation, as the Head of all creation and of all men, as God's expression in God's image and likeness, and as God's representative to rule over all things created by God. God's intention is that man would express God in His image and represent God with His dominion.

B. Fellowship what revelation for us in Acts 2:9-11.

In Acts 2:9-11, although all these were Jews (v. 5), under God's sovereignty all these Jews were not of one language. They were Jews, but they were divided and scattered. However, when the time came for the church to be brought forth, they were all gathered together, and in that gathering, the church was produced. In the old man, man was divided and scattered, but in the new man, man is gathered and made one.

Day 2 —

A. Explain two phrases in Ephesians 2:15: in His flesh and in Himself.

Christ abolished in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances. The negative things were terminated in Christ's flesh, whereas the new man was germinated in Christ Himself. In His flesh I was terminated on the cross, but in Christ Himself I was created as part of the one new man.

B. Expound due to Christ's resurrection and Spirit that we have been created into the one new man.

Although Christ in the flesh was crucified on the cross, this death brought Him into resurrection. It was in His flesh that we, the old man, were terminated, but it is in the wonderful Spirit that we have been created into the one new man. When our old man was crucified, the ordinances were slain. Then in Christ's resurrection and in His wonderful Spirit, we were created into one new man.

Day 3 —

A. Explain what achievements Christ made in the creating of the new man.

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. The Jews and the Gentiles were separated to the uttermost by the separating ordinances, but both were created in Christ with the divine essence into one new entity, which is a corporate man, the church.

B. Expound the church being the masterpiece of God's work.

The Greek word for masterpiece, *poiema*, something that has been written or composed as a poem. We, the church, the masterpiece of God's work, are a poem expressing God's infinite wisdom and divine design. The heavens, the earth, and man, created by God, are not God's masterpiece;

but the church, the Body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all, the corporate and universal new man is a masterpiece.

Day 4 —

A. Fellowship insisting on a certain practice, we will make it an ordinance, bringing separation. If we insist on a particular practice, we make it an ordinance that separates and creates enmity. Christians have been divided by ordinances, but on the cross of Christ all ordinances were abolished. Therefore, we must repudiate all ordinances and go along with the practices of the saints, as long as these practices do not involve anything sinful, immoral, or idolatrous.

B. Expound that in the church life, we must overcome Babel.

The differences among the peoples began at Babel. In God's economy in the church life, we must overcome Babel. As the redeemed and recovered ones, those who have been transferred into Christ and into the church life, we must learn to hate the differences that divide the peoples. The worldly people regard cultural differences as a mark of prestige. But in Christ we have all lost this prestige.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the meaning of the Greek term for arbitrate in Colossians 3:15.

The Greek term for arbitrate can also be rendered "umpire, preside, be enthroned as a ruler and decider of everything." For the proper Body life we need the peace of Christ to arbitrate, to adjust, and to decide all things in our heart in our relationship with the members of His Body. Our having been called to the peace of Christ should also motivate us to let this peace arbitrate in our hearts.

B. Explain how to experience to give place to Him as the presider whenever we sense that our being are arguing or quarreling.

As Christians, we are more complicated than unsaved people are. We need someone or something to preside over the conferences that take place within our being. Whenever we sense that different parties within our being are arguing or quarreling, we need to give place to the presiding peace of Christ and allow this peace, which is the oneness of the new man, to rule within us.

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship the words in Colossians 3:11, and how to carry out it.

In Colossians 3:11, there is no natural person in the new man. Furthermore, there is no possibility, no room, for any natural person. No matter what kind of person we may be, as far as the new man is concerned, we must regard ourselves as nobodies. In the new man there is room only for Christ, not for any kind of natural person. In the new man Christ is all and in all.

B. Expound what revelation of joining these three verses is. (Romans 15:6, 1 Corinthians 1:10, and Ephesians 2:15)

You may wonder how millions of members can speak the same thing. Humanly speaking, this is absolutely impossible. However, we must see that in a local church there must be only one mouth. This is because there is only one person. There are no policemen here; each of us is absolutely free, but on the other hand, you have absolutely no freedom because within you there is another person.

### **III. Conclusion:**

Everyone has their own way of living, and we must be careful not to turn our way of living or worship into ordinances. In order to live a proper church life, all such rules should be eliminated and discarded. We must learn to let go of any ordinance. At present, our only reputation is the Christ and the genuine oneness. If we are willing to put aside our pride in our culture, then the Lord will have the opportunity to gain a proper church life. We are the masterpiece of God and His workmanship. This means that we should not think that we can do anything for God or that we are capable of doing God's work. God does not expect us to do His work; rather, He is looking for opportunities to work Himself into us. We are the masterpiece and workmanship of God because Christ is working Himself into us. We can boast in God's creation because Christ is inside of us.