2017/12/25-12/31

### The Status of the Church-the Body of Christ(Hymn: 1232)

Overview : The Body of Christ has been formed as the result of the dispensing of the processed Triune God in resurrection and the transmitting in the ascension. The Body of Christ is the fullness of Christ, as the One who fills all in all. All the reality of the Body of Christ is the Spirit of the reality of the consummated Triune God. All that the Triune God is, including righteousness, holiness, life, light, power, grace, and all the divine attributes, are realized by the Spirit of reality to be the real attributes of the Body of Christ. And the church as the Body of Christ is the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ. For the organic building up of the Body of Christ, all the saints should grow in Christ and function. The Lord desires to recover the church meetings in mutuality with all prophesving (speaking for the Lord) for the building up of the church. I. Ephesians 1:22 and 23 reveal that the church is the Body of II. We need to see clearly how the Body of  $\mathbf{II}$ . The reality of the Body of Christ is the Spirit of the reality of the Triune Christ: Christ has been formed: God: A. The church is not an organization but an organic Body A. In Christ's resurrection the processed and A. Reality refers to the real condition of persons and things. constituted of all the believers, who have been regenerated and consummated Triune God has been wrought **B.** The Body of Christ is the church, and all its reality is the Spirit have God's life, for the expression of the Head. of the reality of the consummated Triune God: into His chosen people. 1. The reality of the processed Triune God is His consummated Spirit of reality. **B.** The Body is the fullness of the Head, and the fullness is the B. In Christ's ascension the all-inclusive, expression of the Head. compound Spirit, as the consummation of the **2**. The reality of all that the Triune God is, has, and can do is this Spirit of reality. C. Christ, as the One who fills all in all, needs the Body to be His processed Triune God. descended upon His 3. The reality of the death and resurrection through which the Triune God has fullness; this Body is the church to be His fullness. chosen people. passed is also in the Spirit of reality. C. Within them God's chosen, redeemed, and **4**. The Spirit of reality makes everything of the processed Triune God a reality in D. The church is the Body of Christ, and Christ is the Head of the church; hence, the church and Christ are one Body, the regenerated people have Christ as the the Body of Christ. 5. All that the Triune God is, including righteousness, holiness, life, light, power, mysterious, universal great man, having the same life and nature: embodiment of the processed and 1. Christ is the life and content of the Body, and the Body is the consummated Triune God, and upon them grace, and all the divine attributes, are realized by the Spirit of reality to be the organism and expression of Christ. they have the consummated Spirit. real attributes of the Body of Christ. **2**. As the Body, the church receives everything from Christ; D. In this way the believers in Christ become 6. These attributes have been realized in the church by the Spirit in the Body of therefore, everything of Christ is expressed through the church. Christ; the church therefore possesses the reality of the divine attributes. the Body of Christ, an organism produced **3**. The two, Christ and the church as His Body, are mingled and through the mingling of the processed and All that the Triune God in Christ experienced, including incarnation, crucifixion, joined as one, with Christ being the inward content and the church consummated Triune God with the and resurrection, are likewise realized by the Spirit of reality to be the real being the outward expression. transformed tripartite man. experiences of the Body of Christ. **IV**. The church as the Body of Christ is the corporate Christ: V. For the building up of the Body of Christ, we need to practice the scriptural way to meet and to serve: A. Without the biblical way for us to meet and to serve, the way that is shown in the New Testament, A. In 1 Corinthians 12:12 the Christ is not the individual Christ but the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ, composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body, with all the the Lord's words concerning the building up of the church cannot be fulfilled. believers as its members: B. If 1 Corinthians 14:26 and Hebrews 10:24-25 are not fulfilled, there is no way for the building up of 1. The Bible considers Christ and the church as one mysterious Christ; the two have been joined the church as the Body of Christ. together to become one mysterious Christ, the Body-Christ. C. The scriptural way to meet and to serve, with all the saints functioning as living members of the Body 2. All the believers of Christ are organically united with Him and constituted of His life and of Christ, is versus the traditional way, the natural way, to meet and to serve, which is in the principle of element to become His Body, an organism, to express Him. the clergy-laity system: 1. The traditional way fits man's natural and fallen condition, is religious, and accommodates the dead B. As a vine includes not only the stalk but also the branches, so the corporate Christ, the man's taste. Body-Christ, includes not only Christ Himself but also the members of Christ's Body, who are 2. The traditional way binds and annuls the organic function of the living members of Christ and chokes the members of Christ, parts of Christ: and kills the members of Christ. 1. Christ is the element, the factor, that makes us parts of Him. 3. The scriptural way is spiritual, fits the taste of the living and spiritual man, and requires us to be living 2. In order to be parts of Christ, members of His Body, we must have Christ wrought into our and in the spirit. being. 4. The scriptural way is able to develop the organic ability and function of the members of Christ and able **3**. The church can be the Body of Christ, the corporate Christ, only as the members are to build up the Body of Christ. constituted of Christ, possessing His life and nature. D. The Lord desires to recover the organic building up of the Body of Christ: C. The baptism into the one Body has positioned us all to drink of the one Spirit, and by 1. The organic building up of the Body of Christ is the increase of the Triune God in the believers for their drinking of the Spirit, we are constituted to be the Body, the corporate Christ: growth in Christ. 1. By drinking the Spirit, we experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity into our being and are 2. The Lord desires to recover the church meetings in mutuality with all prophesying (speaking for the constituted to be the Body. Lord) for the building up of the church; prophesying is the excelling way to dispense the riches of Christ 2. The more we drink the one Spirit, the more the divine element becomes our constituent to into God's people for the organic building up of the Body of Christ. make us the one Body, the Body-Christ.

Day1: <u>Eph.1:22</u> And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, <u>23</u> Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all. <u>1 Cor. 1:18</u> For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Day2: John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

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

<u>Rom. 15:16</u> That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

<u>Eph. 3:16</u> That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Day3: <u>1 Cor. 12:12</u> 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. 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

<u>Col. 3:15</u> And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Day4: <u>1 Cor. 14:26</u> What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

<u>Heb. 10:25</u> Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.

Matt. 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall by no means pass away.

Day5: <u>2 Tim. 1:6</u> For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <u>7</u> For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

Day6: <u>Eph. 4:15</u> But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, <u>16</u> Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

<u>1 Cor. 14:4</u> He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church. <u>12</u> So also you, since you are zealous of spirits, seek that you may excel for the building up of the church. <u>31</u> For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

《Composition for prophecy》

## Experience (1): Experience the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ

In 1 Corinthians 12:12, Christ...is not the individual Christ but the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ. In Greek "Christ" in this verse is "the Christ," referring to the corporate Christ, composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body with all the believers as its members. All the believers of Christ are organically united with Him and constituted of His life and element to become His Body, an organism, to express Him. Hence, He is not only the Head but also the Body.

As a vine includes not only the stalk but also the branches, so the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ, includes not only Christ Himself but also the members of Christ's Body, who are the members of Christ, parts of Christ. According to our natural constitution, we cannot be members of Christ's Body. Christ Himself is the element, the factor, that makes us parts of Him.

In order to become the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ, Christ had to pass through the steps of a process. First He, the very God, became flesh for our redemption. Then in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit to come into us and work within us. In this way He becomes the Body-Christ. Now in the church life we enjoy not only God, the Redeemer, and the life-giving Spirit but also the Christ who is the Body.

#### For Young Working Saints

The first status of the church is the Body of Christ. Since you believed and accepted Christ as the life-giving Spirit, you have the life and the nature of Christ in you. Based on this, you became a son of God, a brother of Christ, and a member of the Body of Christ. Your natural being is not a brother of Christ or a member of the Body of Christ. So in your church life, you should not behave according to your own natural being. For example, you might be very good at studies, and graduated a famous college and found a good job. Afterward, by the Lord's mercy, you have been saved and started a church life. You should not think that your own natural cleverness and ability can help the church. They are not useful without passing through death and resurrection. Remember, "Being a member of the Body of Christ is entirely unrelated to your ability, academic background, family, or income". You must exercise your spirit, pray in the spirit, and practice the church life in the fellowship with brothers and sisters, especially in the fellowship with those who are leading you.

However, this does not deny your experiencing Christ and being blessed in your study or work. You must experience Christ in your real daily life. Christ you experienced make you a more suitable member of the Body of Christ.

Not only enjoying Christ as the life-giving Spirit in your church life, but also experience and enjoy the Body-Christ, the corporate Christ. Today Christ multiplied in many brothers and sisters to become the Body-Christ. This Body-Christ can magnify Christ corporately, fight against the enemy of God, and defeat the enemy. If you experience Christ only personally, you cannot run away from a trap of Satan and overcome him. For example, when you preach the gospel, but no one is saved. In the most of such cases, this comes from your lack of realizing and experiencing the Body-Christ. Satan shall not prevail the built-up Body. So treasure a church life, the Body-Christ. Paul in a jail, in which he is unable to have a meeting, has not placed himself away from the Body of Christ but has experienced the Body-Christ. Amen!

# Experience 2: <u>Recover the church meetings in mutuality</u>

The Lord desires to recover the church meetings in mutuality with all speaking for building up.

God's administration is a family matter. In ancient times the administration among large families was mainly for distributing the food, the necessities, to all the members of the family. Our God has the biggest family in the universe. God has a family plan to distribute all His rich provision to His children. His rich provision is altogether embodied in a person, the second of the Trinity, Christ. All the riches of the Godhead and the fullness of the Godhead are embodied in Christ. God's family plan, God's family administration, is to distribute, to dispense, all the divine riches in Christ into His saved ones for their nourishment and feeding, resulting in the building up of the Body of Christ. Today we are under God's economy to enjoy His rich distribution.

We are now under God's dispensing, and this dispensing is by prophesying. Prophesying is the unique way, the best way, the excelling way, to dispense all the riches of Christ into God's people for the building up of the organic Body of Christ. The dispensing of the riches of Christ by prophesying can be illustrated by the dispensing of food by a mother. Day by day a mother distributes, or dispenses, food to her little baby until he becomes a strong and husky boy....To prophesy is to distribute, to dispense, the Triune God as the rich food, the nourishing element, into others.

#### For Junior and Senior High Students

- The following three matters are the important things in the church meeting.
- i. Dispense the riches of Christ to others through prophesying, speaking the Word of God.
- ii. Supply one another.
- iii. Functioning of all the members.

You are young, but never think that you only need to receive the supply and has no need to supply others. Rather, you need to learn to pray for the brothers and sisters who serve you and for the responsible ones of the church from a young age. With this you are learning not only to receive supply from the serving ones but also to supply life to them. By doing this, the mutuality in the meeting can be recovered.

<u>Heb. 10:24</u> And let us consider one another so as to incite one another to love and good works, <u>25</u> Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.

Learn to supply mutually like this, it will help you to grow in life normally.

- i. Mutuality saves you from individualism.
- ii. Mutuality lets you participate the abundant supply of the Spirit in the Body of Christ.
- iii. Mutuality lifts up the human virtues such as meekness, perseverance, love, and uniting bond of peace.
- iv. Mutuality lets you experience the Body and Christ.
- v. Mutuality exposes Satan's trap and lets us overcome Satan in spiritual warfare.
- vi. Mutuality perfects people, making them excellent students, excellent business person.

vii. Mutuality helps to become an overcomer.

Learn to become a functioning member for the building of the Body of Christ from young age. By doing this, you will be a useful material for God and people.

詩歌、補607番 一人の新しい人として 1 つみに死んでいて、 この世で調和なし。 かみはわれらを生かし、 復かつさせ、天にすわらす。 (復) イエスはあつめられた!、 かん全にいちとなる! 主のあいはいちへと、 主の豊満へといたらせる。 2 すべての聖徒たちと、 主の大きさを得て、 超越したあい知り、 かみの豊満へといたる。 3 さだめられた御むね、 おく義われら知る。 キリスト、召かいを見て、 ともにてきはずかしめる。 4 主よ、うちなるひとへ われをぞうきょうし、 うちにホームをつくり、 愛に根ざし、土だいづけよ。 5 われら組み合わされ、 キリスト供きゅうし、 分に応じてはたらき、 からだをせいちょうさせる。 6 いま、あたらしいひとを 成就し、われらいち。 召会、キリストにあり、 かみにえい光あれ、アーメン!

补充本,#616 耶穌聚集我們在一起 1 從前我們在罪中死了, 這世界全然一團糟; 但神使我們一起復活, 一起與基督升天,同坐寶座。 (副歌) 耶穌聚集我們在一起, 請看看聖徒同心合意! 主愛使得我們都一致, 達到基督豐滿身量的地步。 2 因此我們能和眾聖徒, 一起明白基督的爱: 長闊高深雖然無法測度, 但神的豐滿我們一再得著。 3 神在歷代隱藏的旨意, 已成了顯明的奧祕; 基督, 召會, 我們今看見, 這真叫撒但受辱,羞慚滿面! 4 我們為此來禱告父神一 剛強我們裡面的人, 讓你安家在我們心裡, 使我們在你愛中生根立基。 5 在身體裡聯絡得合式, 各筋節都供應基督, 各個肢體功用都擺上, 使身體得著建造,不斷增長! 6 如今我們已合而為一, 成為神所要的新人; 在基督裡,在召會中間, 願榮耀歸神,直到永永遠遠!

#1232 The Church – As the One New Man \_1\_ Once by nature we were dead in sin, In a world of utter discord; But together God has guickened us, Raised us up to sit together with the Lord. (Refrain) Jesus is getting us together, Come and see the saints in one accord. His love is knitting us together, To the stature of the fullness of the Lord. \_2\_ Thus with all saints we can apprehend All the vast dimensions of God. Knowing Christ's love passes all we know, We're together filled to fullness with our God. 3 Now we know the purpose of our God, Visible the mystery become Christ, the church, together now we see And together put the enemy to shame 4 For this cause we pray the Father God-Strengthen Thou with might our inner man; Make Yourself at home in all our hearts. Root us, ground us in Your love and for Your plan. \_5\_ In the Body we'll be fitly framed As the many members Christ supply; Working in the measure of each part, All by growth in love the Body edify. 6 Now we're one His purpose to fulfill, As the one new man of His plan. Unto Him be glory in the church, And in Jesus Christ forevermore—Amen!