

#4 Blending for the Reality of the Body of Christ

Thanksgiving Special Conference 2019/2/4-10

I. The highest peak in God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ; the reality of the Body of Christ is absolutely organic. Rom. 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, 5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

II. The Lord's recovery is for the building up of the Body of Christ; thus, to know the Body is the proper recovery of the Lord:

A. The Church takes the Body of Christ as its organic factor; without the Body of Christ the church is lifeless and is a mere human organization.

B. The Body is the intrinsic significance of the church; without the Body the church makes no sense and has no meaning. [Mon]

C. The elders should shepherd one another and love one another to be a model of the Body life; the elders need to love one another, their wives need to love one another, and they need to love one another's children.

D. If we would have the reality of the Body of Christ, we must allow Christ to make His home in our hearts; the reality of the Body is the inner experience of the indwelling Christ.

E. The Lord urgently needs the reality of the Body of Christ to be expressed in the local churches; unless there is a substantial expression of the Body, the Lord Jesus will not return. Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, 23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

F. The Lord needs the overcomers to carry out the economy of God to have the Body of Christ and to destroy His enemy; without the overcomers the Body of Christ cannot be built up, and unless the Body of Christ is built up, Christ cannot come back for His bride.

G. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion—the overcomers as the reality of the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem; in the church life we must endeavor to reach today's Zion. [Tue]

III. God has blended the Body together; the word blended means "adjusted," "harmonized," "tempered," and "mingled," implying the losing of distinctions: 1 Cor.12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked, 25 That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.

A. In order to be blended for the reality of the Body of Christ, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit to dispense Christ to others for the building up of the Body of Christ.

B. Blending means that we should always stop in order to fellowship with others; we should not do anything without fellowshiping with the other saints who are coordinating with us, because fellowship adjusts us, harmonizes us, tempers us, and mingles us.

C. A group of responsible brothers may meet together often without being blended; to be blended means that you are touched by others and that you are touching others by going through the cross, doing things by the Spirit, and doing

everything to dispense Christ for His Body's sake.

D. Such a blending is not social but the blending of the very Christ whom the individual members, the district churches, the co-workers, and the elders enjoy, experience, and partake of.

E. The blending is for the building up of the universal Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem as the final goal of God's economy according to His good pleasure. [Wed]

IV. We need to follow in the apostle's footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ; the apostle brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings in order that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ. Rom. 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea, 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. 20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. [Thu]

V. The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the Body of Christ: Eph. 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling.

A. We need to be in the local churches as the procedure to be brought into the reality of the Body of Christ as the goal.

B. The highest peak of the Lord's recovery that can really, practically, and actually carry out God's economy is for God to produce not many local churches in a physical way but an organic Body to be His organism.

C. Paul's thought of the church being one bread was not his own invention; rather, it was taken from the Old Testament with the meal offering; every part of the flour of the meal offering was mingled with the oil—that is the blending. 1 Cor. 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

D. Hardly anyone speaks about blending because this is not only very high and deep but also very mysterious; it is not a physical matter; the significance of our blending is the reality of the Body of Christ. [Fri]

VI. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are genuine men but are not living by their life but be the life of the processed God, whose attributes have been expressed through their virtues. 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 of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.

VII. The reality of the Body of Christ is the mingling living in the eternal union of the regenerated, transformed, and glorified tripartite God-men with the Triune God in the resurrection of Christ:

A. We use the word *mingling* because this living is still going on.

B. Such a mingling living is in the resurrection of Christ, and the reality of this resurrection is the Spirit; this resurrection imparts the consummated God and releases the death-overcoming life into the believers.

VIII. This corporate and mingling living by the perfected God-men consummates ultimately in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth as God's increase and expression for eternity. [Sat]

Crucial Point①: Love one another, shepherd one another to build up the Body of Christ

OL1: The Lord's recovery is for the building up of the Body of Christ; thus, to know the Body is the proper recovery of the Lord.

OL2: The elders should shepherd one another and love one another to be a model of the Body life; the elders need to love one another, their wives need to love one another, and they need to love one another's children.

I Cor. 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed. 19 And if all were one member, where would the body be? 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you....25 that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another. 26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

I Cor. 13:4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up; 5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil; 6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never falls away.

John 21:4 Now as soon as the morning broke, Jesus stood on the shore; ...6 And He said to them, Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some. They cast therefore, and they were no longer able to haul it in because of the abundance of fish....9 Then when they got out onto the land, they saw a fire of coals laid there, and fish lying on it and bread....11 Simon Peter therefore went up and hauled the net to the land full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, Come and have breakfast. 15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs. 16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep. 17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

Application: for Young Working/Graduate Student Saints

I Corinthians 12 mentions the Body of Christ and the different functions of each member of the Body. And the following chapter mentions love. This shows that the love is the excellent way for each member to function for the building up of the Body of Christ. To function in love for the building is, as shown in John 21:15-17, to love the Lord and to love and shepherd the brothers and sisters as the flock. Especially the responsible ones in the church should be a model by loving and shepherd each other.

1. I Corinthians 12—The Body of Christ and the different functions of each member:

The Body is consisted of many members and rely on each other. Each member has its own different function but they

are all important and indispensable. In the church life, please learn to rely on the brothers and sisters whom you are taking care of to a certain extent. For example, you can ask for their prayer for your work and research. Japanese people have been taught since young that they should not bother other people. So they have strong tendency of declining from being cared for although they care for others. This idea is not altogether wrong, but if it is too much stressed, it leads to deny the mutuality. The proper human relationship is built in the mutuality.

2. I Corinthians 13—Function properly in love:

When you function in the church life, you should pray and concern and seek their spiritual happiness in love. Their spiritual happiness is that they experience the cross and deny the self and experience Christ in the church life to build up the Body. But natural men seek their own things but not spiritual happiness.

Phil. 2:20 For I have no one like-souled who will genuinely care for what concerns you; 21 For all seek their own things, not the things of Christ Jesus (things concerning the church with all the believers).

To help brothers and sisters in love means that to become intimate toward them with the love of God and care for genuinely and seek their spiritual happiness and to bring them back from their own economy to God's economy.

3. John 21—Shepherd:

Peter loved the Lord but he was relying on his natural strength, he denied the Lord three times. And he became weak and disappointed and went back to his former occupation. But the Lord visited such Peter and prepared breakfast and ate with him. Then the Lord asked him three times "Do you love Me?" and commanded him to "Shepherd His sheep". The Lord's shepherding is full of gentle cherishment of His humanity and rich nourishment of His divinity.

The young working saints and graduate students need to learn to shepherd from the Lord's pattern and the patterns of the responsible ones in the church. Then you will be able to become an excellent manager who can care for all the different people in the company in the future.

Testimony of the responsible brother: Concerning brother and sister Adachi's moving into Kobe, my wife and I had prayed and fellowshiped much with their daughter, sister Sainohira and her husband. We heard their desire and prayed much with them. And had fellowshiped much after our prayers. In our prayer and fellowship, I concerned in God's love, what I wanted to do if they were my own parents. Because we are all in God's family. When brother and sister Adachi visited Kobe on September 2 years ago, I recommended clearly with the burden to move to Kobe. Then in November, they bought a house in Kobe. They are now living close to Rokko Student Center and are serving very much and are indispensable serving ones in Rokko district. Praise the Lord.

Prayer: Oh, Lord Jesus, thank you for putting me as the member in the Body. For the building of the Body, I must function properly in love. Without love, I can not encourage, comfort and build others. Fill me with God's love and let me love and shepherd brothers and sisters. Especially care for the new ones and pray for them and shepherd them with cherishment of humanity and nourishment of divinity. Christ and the church is my real occupation. Bless my side business, which is my work or research, for my real occupation.

Crucial Point②: Blending with the saints and mingling with the triune God for the Reality of the Body of Christ

OL1 : We need to follow in the apostle's footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ; the apostle brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings in order that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ. Rom.16:1. I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea, 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. 20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

OL2 : Blending means that we should always stop in order to fellowship with others; we should not do anything without fellowshiping with the other saints who are coordinating with us, because fellowship adjusts us, harmonizes us, tempers us, and mingles us.

OL3 : To be blended means that you are touched by others and that you are touching others by going through the cross, doing things by the Spirit, and doing everything to dispense Christ for His Body's sake. I Cor.12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,

OL4 : Such a blending is not social but the blending of the very Christ whom the individual members, the district churches, the co-workers, and the elders enjoy, experience, and partake of.

OL5 : The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ. I Cor.10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

OL6 : The reality of the Body of Christ is the mingling living in the eternal union of the regenerated, transformed, and glorified tripartite God-men with the Triune God in the resurrection of Christ. Eph. 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

What is the difference between the church and the Body? We need to see that the church of God is the frame and the Body of Christ is the organism. We can use an apple tree as an illustration. The tree is the frame, and the apples are the very organic essence of this tree.... The tree is for the apples....The church is the frame, like the apple tree, and the Body of Christ is the very organic essence of the church, just like the apples are the very organic essence of the apple tree. These two are one. The church is the frame for existing. The Body of Christ is the very organic contents for people's satisfaction.

There is no other way to reach this high peak except by praying. ... In the book of Revelation what the Lord wants and what the Lord will build up is Zion, the overcomers. The overcomers are the very Zion, where God is. This is the intrinsic reality of the spiritual revelation in the holy Word of God. We have to realize what the Lord's recovery is. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion. Paul's writings unveil this to the uttermost, but not many saw this in the past.

Application : For Junior High and High School Students/College Students

There are wishes for social life among people. This is

what God created. And the healthiest social life is church life. Therefore, training to have the reality of body of Christ in church life is the same of training to have the best social life.

The apples are the essence of the apple tree and the apple tree is the outer frame. Likewise, the body of Christ is the essence of the church, the church is the outer frame. The apple tree without apple has no content to attract and satisfy people. The church can not attract and satisfy people if there is no or few reality of the body of Christ. Therefore, it is strategically important to train to have the reality of body of Christ in the church life as the frame.

Crucial points (very important point) for holding the reality of body of Christ in the church life are blending among the saints and Mingling of God and man.

Blending among the saints : Blending is not social but the blending of the very Christ whom the individual members experience. In addition to experiencing Christ personally, other brothers and sisters can also experience, enjoy and partake of Christ by blending. With these experiences, you will be free from individual limitations, family restrictions, generational restrictions, restrictions on national character, and you can experience and enjoy Christ more abundantly. Do your best to participate in various blending, including international blending.

Testimony of a sister : I went to Auckland in New Zealand to participate in the wedding meeting of Sister Kiyomi. During my stay, I was served by a full-time serving family. They enthusiastically welcomed the five brothers and sisters from Japan (Non-family members of Sister Kiyomi). From early morning to late at night all day, We've been served for about a week. When I saw what they did for us, I had a feeling that I also want to serve more brothers and sisters. I was able to serve the sisters from Korea immediately, and enjoyed the blending.

Mingling between the Triune God, who passed through the process, and believers who are being renewed and transformed : You should exercise your mingling spirit at any time so that the mingling will spread from spirit to parts of the soul, mind, feelings and will.

The secret of blending is to go through the cross, do everything with the spirit, and share Christ to others. The killing effect of the cross, supply of the spirit, all of Christ's dispensation is in the mingling spirit. You need various types of blending, but you should exercise the mingling spirit within.

For example, when choosing your future university or graduate school, you need to open your heart to the Lord and brothers and sisters to fellowship. Based on fellowship, you need to pray with the mingled spirit. Then the Lord will guide you in your mingling spirit.

Prayer : "O Lord Jesus, the essence of the church is the body of Christ. I need to expand the reality of the body of Christ in church life. Then, because of this reality, newcomers will be attracted to the church life. For this, I will strive to participate in various blending including international blending. When blending, I wish to experience the cross using the mingling spirit, act according to the spirit and share Christ with others."

I . The High Gospel

Topic 6: Christ Is God (Part 1)

Heb. 1:8 But of the Son, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

The key to the understanding of the Bible and of God is the person of Jesus Christ. Many historians have considered Him a great leader, and many social reformers have considered Him a great teacher of mankind. Napoleon ranked himself equal with Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Charlemagne, but acknowledged that Jesus was above all of them and belonged to a different class. The early Marxists denied that He is God, and Angels even denied that Jesus ever existed. But later Marxists admitted that attempts to erase Jesus from European history and culture were fruitless and ridiculous, and that Jesus is “an example of the most sacred human values.”

CHRIST’S OWN DECLARATIONS

The book of Exodus tells us that the name of God is I Am. When Jesus said, “Before Abraham came into being, I am,” the Jews picked up stones to throw at Him because they knew He was saying that He was God. Jesus as the great I Am is the eternal, ever-existing God.

CHRIST’S MIRACLES PROVING THAT HE IS GOD

Another proof of Christ’s deity is the miracles that He performed on earth. One of the learned Jewish teachers of His time, Nicodemus, confessed that no one could perform the miracles that Christ performed unless God was with him. During His three and a half years of ministry He healed lepers, restored the lame, the dumb, and the blind, and even raised the dead. He cast out demons and quelled the storm. He fed five thousand with five loaves and two fish. He changed water into wine and walked on the sea. He had power over nature and authority over the demons. He exercised this power and authority to bring in the kingdom of God, and even gave this power and authority to His disciples. Some prophets in the Old Testament were able to perform miracles but no one was able to perform miracles as Jesus did. Jesus was able to raise the dead to life because He is God and He holds the power of life.

He proclaimed that He is the resurrection and the life. He proved Himself to be the Lord over nature and over Satan. The Gospel of John says that these miracles manifest His glory and prove that He is the Son of God.

CHRIST’S WORDS TESTIFYING THAT HE IS GOD

He spoke with authority and life. Many great world leaders have left words of wisdom to posterity, but no one in history has ever affected as many lives as Christ has with His words.

Gandhi could not say that he was the light of the world, nor could Aristotle say that he was the way and the reality and the life. The greatest philosophers of the world can at most say that they point others to the way; they can never say that they are the way. But Christ said that He is the way and the reality and the life. One French philosopher once said that if the record of the Gospels were a forgery, the one who forged the records would be qualified to be Christ Himself.

501. Experience of Christ - As Life (Jap 382)

1. O glorious Christ, Savior mine,
Thou art truly radiance divine;
God infinite, in eternity,
Yet man in time, finite to be
C
Oh! Christ, expression of God, the Great,
Inexhaustible, rich, and sweet!
God mingled with humanity
Lives in me my all to be.
2. The fulness of God dwells in Thee;
Thou dost manifest God's glory;
In flesh Thou hast redemption wrought;
As Spirit, oneness with me sought.
3. All things of the Father are Thine;
All Thou art in Spirit is mine;
The Spirit makes Thee real to me,
That Thou experienced might be.
4. The Spirit of life causes Thee
By Thy Word to transfer to me.
Thy Spirit touched, Thy Word received,
Thy life in me is thus conceived.
5. In spirit while gazing on Thee,
As a glass reflecting Thy glory,
Like to Thyself transformed I'll be,
That Thou might be expressed thru me.
6. In no other way could we be
Sanctified and share Thy vict'ry;
Thus only spiritual we'll be,
And touch the life of glory.
7. Thy Spirit will me saturate,
Every part will God permeate,
Deliv'ring me from the old man,
With all saints building for His plan.