

#1 The Reality of the Body of Christ

(The International Chinese-speaking Conference: Living in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Keeping the Principles of the Body) 2019/5/27-6/1

I. The highest peak of God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ.

II. The reality of the Body of Christ is the Spirit of reality wrought into us and constituted into our being.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality...

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

III. The reality of the Body of Christ is "the reality...in Jesus", the actual condition of the life of Jesus, as recorded in the four Gospels, duplicated in His many members as the corporate living of the perfected God-men:

A. Jesus lived a life in which He did everything in God, with God, and for God; God was in His living, and He was one with God—this is the reality in Jesus. **B.** The only life that is a delight to God is the life that is a repetition of the life Christ lived on earth; we are being perfected by the Lord to be God-men, living the divine life by denying our natural life according to the model of Christ as the first God-man. **C.** A living in the reality of the Body of Christ is the same as the living of Jesus; it is Jesus living again in the members of His Body. Mon

IV. The reality of the Body of Christ is the union and mingling of God with man to live out a corporate God-man:

A. The reality of the Body of Christ is the living of a God-man life by a group of God-redeemed people together with the God-man Christ: **1.** In His resurrection the Lord Jesus produced many brothers who, with Him as the eldest Brother, become a great, corporate God-man; this universal man is God yet man and man yet God. **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; **Eph. 2:15** Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace, **2.** After regenerating us, the life-giving Spirit dwells in us and is mingled with out spirit to live a God-man life with us. **3.** This kind of life issues in a universal man who is exactly the same as the Lord Jesus—a man living a God-man life by the divine life. Tue

B. The reality of the Body of Christ is a living by the God-man, who are united, joined, and constituted together with God by the mingling of humanity with divinity and divinity with humanity. **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. **C.** The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-man, who are not living by their life but by the life of the processed God, whose attributes are 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. Wed

V. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living of the conformity to the death of Christ: **2 Cor. 4:10** Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. **A.** The life of a Christ-pursuing God-man is a life of

pursuing to die with Christ through the experience of the cross: **1.** The cross must become our experience; the cross that enters into our heart is the cross that has become our subjective experience for us to live Christ. **Gal. 6:14** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. **2.** A living under the cross touches the deepest parts of our being and every detail in our daily life.

B. It is by the power of Christ's resurrection that we are conformed to the death of Christ. **Phil. 3:10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

C. The reality of the Body of Christ is a living of being conformed to the death of Christ through the cross: **1.** The cross—the death of Christ—is the centrality and universality of our way to live the Christian life in order to fulfill God's purpose. **2.** As Christ's continuation, we should live a crucified life every day. **1 Cor. 15:31** I protest by the boasting in you, brothers, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

D. We should be those who live a crucified life by taking Christ's death as the mold of our life; it is only by this kind of corporate living that we can have the reality of the Body of Christ. Thu/Fri

VI. To be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to live in the mingled 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. **1 Cor. 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. **A.** God's unique purpose is to mingle Himself with us so that He becomes our life, our nature, and our content, and we become His expression: **1.** In His economy God mingles Himself with us to become one entity with us. **2.** We may be saved to the extent that we and God are completely mingled as one, having one life and one living. **B.** The focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus. **C.** The mingled spirit is a spirit that is one spirit with God and that is the same as God in His life and nature but not in His Godhead: **1.** The divine Spirit and the human spirit are mingled as one within us so that we can live the life of a God-man, a life that is God yet man and man yet God. **2.** The God-man living is the living of the two spirits, the Spirit of God and the spirit of man, joined and mingled together as one. **D.** We live in the reality of the Body of Christ by walking according to the mingled spirit. Sat

Crucial Point①: Experience the cross subjectively by the power of resurrection, making Christ indwell in us and build up the Body of Christ

OL1: The cross must become our experience; the cross that enters into our heart is the cross that has become our subjective experience for us to live Christ. **OL2:** A living under the cross touches the deepest parts of our being and every detail in our daily life. It is by the power of Christ's resurrection that we are conformed to the death of Christ.

Every day remember that you are a God-man. You have God living in you, making His home in you. You and He, He and you, are mingled together as one. You should not live a life by your natural life, your natural man. You and I, the old

man, the natural man, have been terminated on the cross, crucified by the Lord in His death. We must leave our natural man on the cross. This is what it means to bear the cross. By leaving your old man on the cross, you will be conformed to the death of Christ.

[Phil.3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,](#)

The death of Christ means that when Christ lived on this earth, He was always rejecting Himself. He told us that He never did anything by Himself, but He did everything by the Father. He had a very holy, pure human life, but He did not live that life. He put that life aside, put that life to death, and lived by the Father's life. That was a model to us. We should be the mass production of that model, the God-men who have both the human life uplifted in Christ's resurrection and the divine life. Even our human life has been uplifted in Christ's resurrection, but we should not live by that, by ourselves.

Paul says, "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20a). This is not an exchange, because Paul goes on to say, "And the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God" (v. 20b). Paul was a person living not by himself but by the pneumatic Christ, and this pneumatic Christ is the all-inclusive Spirit, who is the consummation of the processed and consummated Triune God. All of this is in resurrection. When you do not live by your natural life but live by the divine life within you, you are in resurrection. The issue of this is the Body of Christ. The reality of the divine life within us is the resurrection, which is the pneumatic Christ, the all-inclusive Spirit, and the processed and consummated Triune God.

What is it to be perfected? It is to be matured by continually exercising to reject the self and live by another life.

Application: For Young People and College Students

You need to learn knowledge and skills at school. But please also learn not to live by your natural life, your self. [Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity, 15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,](#)

In your natural life, there are many ordinances of your own law. So the natural life can not build up the new man. In the same way, natural life would reject cooperating with other people and learning from others at school. If not sooner, in certain stage, the problem would be manifested obviously. You need to learn not to live by self in your church life and school life. If you live by your self, you would reject the corporate living of the Body and ruin human relationship at school. For example, certain person may be too naive so he may be discouraged by the trivial words from his friend. Such a person needs to "thicken the skin of his face". This will also be useful in preaching the gospel. And the other may be too proud and can not learn from others. If you can learn from anyone, you will grow fast. Please learn to deny your self that is full of pride. This will make you grow and reach maturity. Please learn the followings practically:

(1) Experience the cross of Christ and experience the abolishment of the middle wall of partition, the enmity among people: If you do not experience the cross, you can not be in harmony and fitted with all the classmates. When you face the person you can not get along with, please

experience the cross. Then you can be fitted together with the person and your capacity will be enlarged and they will be surprised by your broadened capacity. This kind of living will be helpful to the gospel to them. According to the recent news, there are some (and there were many) who graduated from Tokyo university and became elite bureaucrats and then were elected as Diet members, but now being criticized because of their abusive speech in Diet or press conference. Probably they are not Christians so they can not experience the cross. If they could experience the cross, they would not have said those abusive words in public.

[1Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved is the power of God.](#)

(2) Only by the power of resurrection, you can experience the cross: It is impossible for you to crucify yourself by yourself. You must experience the cross by the power of resurrection in the Spirit.

(3) Only when you experience that your natural man is crucified, can Christ live within you: In Galatians 2:20, first my natural man is put to the cross. Then Christ can live in me. Without the cross, there is no resurrection and Christ can not live within.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, when I have someone I can not get along with at school, let me experience the cross and learn not to live by self. Let me exercise my spirit and experience the cross by the power of His resurrection. By experiencing the cross, the middle wall of partition between others would be taken away and Christ would live within me. Hallelujah, praise the Lord!"

Crucial Point (2): Living in reality of the Body of Christ by living according to the mingled spirit in a business life

OL1: To be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to live in the mingled spirit. **OL2:** The focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus.

The regenerated spirit of the believers and the consummated Spirit of God are mingled as one spirit. Thus, the Spirit of God is no longer like a single hand that cannot produce clapping sounds; rather, the two spirits can "clap" together. Today the Spirit of God and the human spirit are mingled as one within us so that we can live a God-man life, a life that is God yet man and man yet God. Hence, the God-man life is a living of the two spirits, the Spirit of God and the spirit of man joined and mingled together as one.

[Rom8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father! 16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.](#)

FN "The Spirit Himself...with our spirit...": It is not only that the Spirit witnesses and our spirit witnesses also. Rather, it is that the Spirit witnesses with our spirit. This indicates that our spirit must take the initiative to witness first; then the Spirit will witness with our spirit.

FN "witnesses...that we are children of God.": This is the witnessing of the Spirit when we cry "Abba, Father." Such a witnessing testifies to us and assures us that we are the children of God, who possess His life; it also limits us and restricts us to a living and walk that are according to this life, in keeping with our being children

of God. The Spirit witnesses to our most basic and elementary relationship with God, namely, that we are His children; He does not witness that we are His sons or His heirs. Therefore, this witnessing of the Spirit begins from the time of our spiritual birth, our regeneration.

Romans 8:16 says that the Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God....Now we have not only the divine Spirit in our spirit but also the mingling of the divine Spirit with our spirit....The two spirits are mingled not in the heavens or outside of us but within us. This is the focus of the divine economy.

Those who live according to the flesh and the lusts of the flesh are the lowest type of people. Those who live according to the mind and the will are somewhat higher. Humanly speaking, those who live according to the conscience, which is part of man's spirit, may be considered the highest type of people. But we are even higher than this, for we live not only according to the conscience but according to the mingled spirit. Therefore, we are on the highest level. Here, on this level, we have the Christian life and also the church life. This is the focus of God's economy. We should walk according to this, that is, according to the mingled spirit.

How then could we expect to be in the Body life? We have not gone through Romans 8, telling experience of the indwelling mingled spirit. How could we be in Romans 12, showing the Body of Christ? It is impossible. It does not mean that because you are humble, meek, patient, nice, loving, or forbearing that you are in the Body. It means that when you are behaving, acting, moving, and living according to the spirit, to the mingled spirit, to the indwelling of the Spirit, then you are actually moving, living, behaving in the Body of Christ. What, actually speaking, is the Body of Christ? What is the Body of Christ, practically speaking? It is the mingled spirit....May the Lord show us such a fact, such a practicality! If we would see this, we would say, "Lord, have mercy upon me. I am too far off. I have never entered into such a stage of the mingled spirit. I have never entered into a stage of the Body life. I still pray for this and for that, and I still wait for this and for that. I have never realized that the reality of the Body is right within me. The regenerated spirit and the indwelling Spirit are now one, mingled together right within me....Everything is within me. I just walk according to this mingled spirit. I just set my mind on the spirit. Life is here, and peace is here."

Application: For Young Working Saints/Graduate Students

You should learn not to live according to your own custom or culture, but to live according to the mingled spirit. When you live according to your inward mingled spirit, you will be led by the Spirit of God, experience transforming of each part of your soul, mind, emotion and will, and live the reality of the Body of Christ to build the Body of Christ.

Rom8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace....14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God....27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 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; ...33 Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? 36 As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we have been accounted as sheep for slaughter." 37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers 39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord....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.

If you live according to your human concept, custom or favor, you are not following the mingled spirit so you cannot experience to be led by the Spirit of God. Moreover, in order to live according to the mingled spirit, you need to forget your past blessing and past experiences. For example, after people of Israel have experienced the great victory at Jerico, they were defeated at Ai. It was because they applied their experience at Jerico to Ai superstitiously and became too bold. Please remove your bias away but experience the walking according to the mingled spirit subjectively in your actual business life or research life.

A brother's testimony: While I was in the world top leading medical device company, I was selected in the year of 2010 as one of three winners of the Star of Excellency Award, the globally honored award in that company. Then out of those three winners, only I was chosen to be introduced in the company's 40 years anniversary book. In such circumstances, I received an offer from the No. 10 company in the US in April 2011. Because at that time I have been praying based on my human concept and my past blessing, I didn't see any need to accept such offer and so I rejected that offer. But once I decided so, I lost my feeling of peace. So I repented and followed the mingled spirit. By faith and in the fellowship of the Body, I advanced step by step and was led to change to that company. Surprisingly, during six years after I enter that company, the company has done the biggest investment in Japan because of me, and through my team, the most number of the new technologies have been introduced to the medical field. Japan Ministry of Health and Labor Welfare was impressed investment done by that company and achievement done by me and supported us willingly. By loving the Lord and walking according to the mingled spirit, I could experience that everything could become profitable, and my inward unbelieving has been dealt and my values became changed. Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, How often I walk according to my favor, my human concept, and my past blessing! Please forgive me who do not walk according to the mingled spirit. The goal of the God's economy is to reach at the building of the Body of Christ. To achieve that, I must walk according to the mingled spirit in my business life at any cost. Please strengthen my spirit. Renew my mind and change my values. I give my business life for building of the Body of Christ. Amen! Hallelujah!"

LIFE LESSONS 16~17 THE BREAD BREAKING MEETING (4/4)

I . REMEMBERING THE LORD— WITH THE LORD AS THE CENTER :

1. Eating the Lord's Supper

① Remember the Lord

② Enjoy the Lord

③ Display the Lord's Death

2. Attending the Lord's Table (The fellowship of the body of Christ)

II . WORSHIPPING THE FATHER— WITH THE FATHER AS THE CENTER

III . THE PERSONS WHO BREAK BREAD

IV . THE TIME FOR THE BREAKING OF BREAD

V . THE PLACE FOR THE BREAKING OF BREAD

(1) Act.2:46 Breaking bread from house to house

The early believers broke bread from house to house in every home. It is clear that the place for the breaking of bread was their homes.

(2) 1 Cor.11:20 When therefore you come together in the same place...to eat the Lord's supper"

According to this word, the early believers also came together in one place to eat the Lord's supper. This must have occurred in a larger place. There is the sweet and intimate flavor of a small meeting when we gather to break bread in the homes. There is also the rich and uplifted atmosphere of a large meeting when we gather together in one place. The believers may break bread in separate homes or in one place, and this should be decided on by the church according to the need and the situation.

VI . AFTER THE BREAKING OF BREAD

(1) 1 Cor.11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you declare the Lord's death until He comes"

Those who break bread to remember the Lord should be those who long for the Lord, wait for His coming, and love His appearing. Therefore, after we break bread, we ought to live a life of waiting for the Lord's coming.

(2) 1 Cor.10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons"

Here it says that if we partake of the Lord's table, we cannot partake of the table of demons, and if we drink the Lord's cup, we cannot drink the cup of demons. According to the text preceding this verse, the table of demons and the cup of demons are the idol sacrifices. Thus, after we break bread, we cannot eat the idol sacrifices.

(3) 1 Cor.5:8 Let us therefore keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with leaven of malice and evil, but with unleavened bread of sincerity and truth

Here, leaven refers to all evil and all that corrupts us. In the Old Testament, immediately after they kept the Passover, the Israelites observed the feast of unleavened bread, removing all leaven from their living. The breaking of bread in the New Testament replaces the Passover in the Old Testament. Thus, after the breaking of bread, we should keep the feast of unleavened bread as the Israelites did, removing from our life all evil and all that corrupts us. We would only live a holy life free from sin by the Lord's holy and sinless life, which is the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, to be those who truly keep the feast of unleavened bread.

Summary of the Bread Breaking Meeting :

- (1) Hold the bread breaking Meeting in the first half of the Lord's day meeting: At the church in Kobe, we have a bread breaking meeting from 10:00 to 10:45. Similarly, churches in different parts of the world also hold the bread breaking meeting on Sunday morning, Gather in 10 minutes and start 5 minutes before the meeting.
- (2) Remember the Lord in the first half of the bread breaking meeting: The hymns of the bread breaking are not for us to sing our wishes and wills, but to choose and praise hymns about the dispensation of the Lord's life to us by the work of the Lord's redemption. Then, in the second song, select and praise the hymns about the bread breaking, redemption and the dispensation of life that forms the body of Christ, and the fellowship of the body of Christ.
- (3) Worshiping the Father in the second half of the bread breaking meeting: The Son of God Christ guides us to the worship of the Father as we bless him. At this phrase, we choose and praise hymns to worship the Father and pray to the Father.
- (4) After participating in the bread breaking meeting, we eat the Lord daily, live in the fellowship of the body of Christ, and live the life that awaits the return of the Lord.

178 PRAISE OF THE LORD-REMEMBRANCE OF HIM

1. Lord, we thank Thee for the table,
With the bread and with the wine;
At this table we enjoy Thee
As the feast of love divine.
We partake the bread, the emblem
Of Thy body giv'n for us;
And we share the wine, the symbol
Of Thy blood Thou shedd'st for us.
(C) Lo, the holy table! With the sacred symbols;
Its significance in figure Is unsearchable!
2. By the death of Thy redemption,
That Thy life Thou may impart,
E'en Thyself to us Thou gavest
That we share in all Thou art.
By the bread and wine partaking,
We Thy death display and prove;
Eating, drinking of Thyself, Lord,
We remember Thee with love.
3. By this bread which signifieth
Thy one body mystical,
We commune with all Thy members
In one bond identical.
By this holy cup of blessing,
Cup of wine which now we bless,
Of Thy blood we have communion
With all those who faith possess.
4. Thou art our eternal portion,
Here we take a sweet foretaste;
We are waiting for Thy kingdom,
And Thy coming now we haste.
At Thy coming, in Thy kingdom,
With all saints that overcome,
We anew will feast upon Thee
And Thy loving Bride become.