

#2 The Oneness of the Body and the Function of the Body

(The International Chinese-speaking Conference: Living in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Keeping the Principles of the Body) 2019/6/2-8

I. The Body of Christ is uniquely one universally: Eph. 2:16

And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it. **A.** The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the oneness of the Body of Christ: **1.** The Body can exist and survive only in oneness. **2.** The Lord is burdened to recover the oneness of the Body of Christ. **3.** The practice of this oneness has been lost, but we wish to satisfy the Lord's heart to recover this oneness. **B.** The unique oneness of the Body of Christ is "the oneness of the Spirit": **1.** The Spirit is the essence of the Body of Christ; hence, the Spirit is the reality of the oneness of the Body of Christ. **2.** This oneness was imparted into the spirit of the believers in Christ, in the regeneration by the Spirit of life with Christ as life. **3.** We need to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace with the transformed human virtues. Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace: **4.** The ground of a local church is the unique oneness of the Body of Christ, that is, the oneness of the Spirit. **5.** All the local churches need to be kept in the unique oneness of the Body of Christ.

Mon

C. The genuine oneness of the Body is the processed and consummated Triune God, who mingles Himself with the believers: Eph. 4:4-6 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1. The processed and consummated Triune God mingles Himself with His chosen and redeemed people in their humanity, and this mingling is the genuine oneness of the Body of Christ. **2.** Because the Body is such a mingling, the Body itself is the oneness. **D.** The oneness of the Body of Christ is the oneness of the Divine Trinity; hence, the oneness of the Body of Christ is the enlarged oneness of the Divine Trinity. John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

Tue

E. We are the church to be the Body of Christ not by being enlivened, regenerated, and made alive with the Triune God as the oneness within us. Eph. 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) **F.** All the local churches are and should be one Body universally, doctrinally, and practically. **G.** Blending is the most helpful thing in keeping the oneness of the universal Body of Christ. 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. **H.** The keeping of the oneness is the primary virtue of our Christian walk. **I.** All the believers should be in the divine and mystical realm of the pneumatic Christ and the consummated Spirit to be mingled with the Triune God for the keeping of the oneness.

Wed

II. The function of the Body is to express Christ:

A. The universally great Christ needs a Body to be His fullness, His expression: Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church. Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all. **1.** The fullness of Christ issues from the enjoyment of the riches of Christ. Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel. **2.** Through the enjoyment of Christ's riches, we become His fullness to express Him: **a.** The fullness of Christ is Christ experienced by us and constituted into us. **b.** The objective riches become the subjective fullness, and this fullness is the Body of Christ. **B.** The Body of Christ is the extension and continuation of Christ on earth. **Thu**

C. The purpose of us believers being members one of another in the Body of Christ is that we would live Christ and express Him together. Rom. 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **D.** The Body of Christ is Christ; if we would be in the Body, we must be made Christ: Col. 3:10-11 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all. **1.** We are one Body in Christ, having an organic union with Him. **2.** In the Body Christ is all and in all. **3.** The church as the Body of Christ comes out of Christ and is one with Christ. **4.** There is only one thing in a believer that forms a part of the Body of Christ. **5.** God is constituting us with Christ so that we can become the Body of Christ in reality and practicality. **Fri**

E. The Body of Christ is the corporate Christ: 1 Cor. 12:12-13 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. For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit. **1.** In verse 12 the Christ refers not to the individual Christ but to the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ. **2.** The corporate Christ is composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body with all the believers as His members. **3.** All the believers in Christ are organically united with Him and constituted with His life and element and have thus become His Body, an organism to express Him; hence, Christ is not only the Head but also the Body. **4.** The Bible considers Christ and the church as one mysterious Christ; Christ is the Head of this mysterious Christ, and the church is the Body of this mysterious Christ. **Sat**

Crucial Point①: The oneness of the Body of Christ is the oneness of the Spirit. The blending of the churches keeps the oneness of the Body

OL1: The unique oneness of the Body of Christ is "the oneness of the Spirit" All the local churches need to be kept in the unique oneness of the Body of Christ.

OL2: The genuine oneness of the Body is the processed and consummated Triune God, who mingles Himself with the believers.

The genuine oneness, which is the mingling of the Triune

God with the redeemed humanity, has three aspects (Hymn1081). The first aspect is the oneness in the Father's name by His divine life, and the second is the oneness in the Triune God by His sanctifying word. The first aspect concerns the source and the element of the oneness, and the second concerns the standing of the oneness. If we are in the world and under Satan's hand, we cannot practice the oneness. To practice the oneness, we must be separated from the world and kept away from Satan's hand.

The third aspect of the genuine oneness is the oneness of the believers in Christ in the divine glory. ... God's glory is His divine life with His divine nature to express Him. If we did not have the Father's life with the Father's nature, it would be impossible for us to express the Father. The expression of the Father comes from the Father's life with the Father's nature. This expression of the Father is the glory. We must not act or do anything to express ourself; ... This is glory, and it is in this glory that we all are one.

OL3: Blending is the most helpful thing in keeping the oneness of the universal Body of Christ.

OL4: The keeping of the oneness is the primary virtue of our Christian walk.

Among us we should have the blending of all the individual members of the Body of Christ, the blending of all the churches in certain districts, the blending of all the co-workers, and the blending of all the elders. Blending means that we should always stop to fellowship with others.... If we isolate and seclude ourselves, we will lose much spiritual profit. Learn to fellowship. Learn to be blended. From now on, the churches should come together frequently to be blended. We may not be used to it, but after we begin to practice blending a few times, we will acquire the taste for it. This is the most helpful thing in the keeping of the oneness of the universal Body of Christ.

Application : For Young Working saints and Graduate Students

The principle of Satan is the division, to divide. But our God is the Triune God and the result of our enjoyment of God is the oneness. The believers are all around the five continents of the world, but the church, the Body of Christ keeps the oneness of the Spirit. When the oneness of the Body of Christ is kept, God can bless such church life greatly.

To keep the oneness of the Body of Christ, (1) The oneness of the Spirit is the oneness of the Body of Christ. You should exercise your spirit and touch the Spirit and be filled with the Spirit. (2) The Triune God, the Father and the Son and the Spirit are one. Because the consummation of the Triune God is the Spirit, by our partaking of the Spirit, we can be one as the Triune God is one. **John17:22** And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one; (3) The believers and the churches need to be blended together. The more blended they become, the more they will be kept in oneness of the Body. And you can participate in the various spiritual blessings in this oneness. The more there are the blending of each member of the Body of Christ, the responsible ones' blending, the blending of the responsible ones around the

churches, the more the oneness is kept. (4) And also, to keep the oneness, we need the virtues of the transformed humanity, such as lowliness, meekness, long-suffering and bearing one another in love etc. **Eph. 4:2** With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love, **3** Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace: **4** One Body and one Spirit,

The organizations like companies are different from the Body of Christ. But if you have the virtues of the transformed humanity, it will be useful to bring the organizations and groups into one and make it go on. By uniting the organization, we can expect synergy effect, you can build up the strong and productive organization. So those who can keep oneness in the church life can also become the ones who are the most needed in the world. The ones who are the most needed in the company are the specialists in their field and at the same time they can be the leader who can bring those specialists together into one strong organization. In the church life and your business life, please have the life of Win-Win.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, to keep the oneness of the Body of Christ, I exercise my spirit. Let me enjoy the Spirit which is the ultimate consummation of the Triune God, and fill me with the Spirit. Without the mingling of Triune God and us, there can not be the oneness of the Body. At the same time, we need to be blended with the nearby churches. The blending keeps us in the oneness of the Body. And also we need the virtues of the transformed humanity to keep the oneness. **Lord, bless the churches in the oneness of the Body. Amen!"**

Crucial Point (2): The most crucial basic matter is to enjoy Christ. In the cooperating Body life, you can keep enjoying Christ continually, steadfastly and more richly.

OL1: Through the enjoyment of Christ's riches, we become His fullness to express Him.

Chapters 1 and 4 of Ephesians both mention fullness, while chapter 3 mentions the riches of Christ. What is the difference between the riches of Christ and the fullness of Christ? If you put a big pile of food here, it would not be called fullness; it would be called riches. However, once you have eaten these riches item by item and have digested them, they become your cells and the elements of your body. Consequently, your body is constituted with what you have eaten and digested. This constituted body is a fullness. The riches of Christ are boundless, immeasurable, and unsearchable, but you still need to eat and assimilate these riches of Christ. The more Christ you eat and the more Christ is assimilated into you, the more element of the fullness you will gain.

OL2: The purpose of us believers being members one of another in the Body of Christ is that we would live Christ and express Him together.

According to the New Testament, none of us believers can live and work alone apart from the Body. Our living and work must all be in the Body of Christ. As members of the Body of Christ, we are not separate and complete individual units. Rather, we should coordinate together to become the many parts of the one whole. What the Lord wants is not individual members but a whole Body. However, most Christians... think that it is all right as long as they love and fear the Lord and preach the gospel to bring others to salvation. But as far as the expression of the Lord's Body is concerned, this is not good at all.

Application : For Young People and College Students

The fundamental requirement for church life is to enjoy the Lord. Without enjoying the riches of the Lord, there will be no church as the fullness of the Lord. The local church needs to help and bring saints into a life of enjoying the Lord. As an example, the first thing we do in our prayer meeting is to enjoy the Lord by pray-reading the Holy Word or outlines related to the burden of our church. Once you enjoy the Lord, your spirit become strengthened and enriched, so then you can pray in your spirit for the practical needs. But if you start praying for the practical things without enjoyment of the Lord, you fall easily into your mind and so cannot touch God in your prayer. Therefore, a secret of the prayer meeting is to enjoy the Lord first, and then by being filled with the Lord, pray for the needs in our spirit. This principle is the same for preaching the gospel. Brother Lee told us that a secret of preaching the gospel is to pray-read the Word for 30 minutes to enjoy the Lord first. This fundamental but crucial principle must be applied to every aspects of your Christian life.

To maintain your enjoyment of the Lord, you must practice the Body life. You need to pray for other members of the Body, and also let the other members pray for you. The Body life can be expressed in the mutual relationship. As each member of a body can function properly by relying on each other, please learn to place yourself in the Body life where you will be supplied by others and supply others in the mutuality.

As an example, when you feel weak under the pressure of an exam, you tell about it to the saints who are your spiritual partner or who are leading you, and experience that they pray for you about it and support you. As another example, you may be troubled by relationship in your school. You should open to other member of the Body, explain your situation clearly and ask them to pray for you. Because Japanese people have very strong cultural concept of "Don't bother the others," it is very difficult to open to the others. However, you are a member of God's family, a member of the Body of Christ. Please learn to open and have a fellowship properly. Paul is your good model, who asked saints around him to pray for him. [Phil. 1:19](#) For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. FN "[your petition](#)": This is the supply of the Boy of Christ, the church. Imprisonment did not isolate Paul from the Body of Christ or cut him off from the supply of the Body. [Eph. 6:20](#) ...praying ...for me, ...the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

[Proverbs 11:25](#) says, "The blessing soul will prosper, and he who waters will also be watered himself." So please pray for the needs of the other members of the Body and of six kinds of new ones. Then you will be blessed and watered. In your church life, you live a life of mutuality, by being supplied by others and supplying others.

Because you are a member of the Body of Christ, you should never live a single Christian life, but you should live a cooperating life. In a life of the Body of Christ, not only the meetings but everything in your life and work need to be in the Body of Christ. May the Lord open your eyes and bless you greatly in the Body so that you can support the other members of the Body.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, I enjoy the riches of the Lord in the church life. Please help me to open to my partner and leading brothers and sisters, so that they can pray for my need. I also pray for the six kinds of new ones. I want to practice the life of

supplying each other in mutuality of the Body of Christ. I keep the oneness of the Body, fulfill my function as a member of the Body, and build up the Body."

The High Gospel Topic 11 Life through Faith (B)

[John 3:16](#) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

BY FAITH NOT BY FEELING: A friend of mine told me once, "Mr. Nee, I really want to receive the Son of God into my life. I have prayed to God and told Him that I desire to have Christ in me. I was told that when Christ comes into me, I will have a burning sensation within. But when I knelt down, my heart was cold as a rock. And after I prayed, nothing seemed to have changed. How do I know if I really have received the Son of God into me as life?" I said, "The Bible does not say that a man will feel burning or will remain cold when he receives the Son of God. All that it says is to believe. It is by faith, not by feeling. If you depend on your feeling, you are not believing God's words; you are making God a liar! When God said He has given, then it is given. It has nothing to do with your feeling."

FEELING FOLLOWING FAITH: One year I was in Chefoo. A brother told me, "I have believed in the Son of God to be my life. But I do not have a glorious sensation about it. Have I really received Him?" I told him a parable: "Three men are walking on a narrow wall. The one walking at the front represents the fact of Christ's being our life. The one in between signifies our faith. It always follows God's accomplished facts. The last person represents our feeling of glory. This feeling comes after a man has believed. It is the last of the three items. When the three walk on the wall, the person in between can only look forward. Our faith comes into being when we look steadfastly at God's accomplished work. God has already given us His Son to be our life. When we see this fact, we have faith. The second always follows the first. After faith comes the sense of glory. All that the third man can see is the second one; whereas if the second tries to turn around to look at the third, he will immediately fall from the wall. A faith that is not fixed on facts is a shaking faith. The minute the second man falls, the third has but to follow. All feelings of glory will then be lost. Therefore, do not look back to search for the glorious sensation. Simply follow the facts.

God has accomplished everything in Christ. He died and was resurrected, and He has been transformed into the Holy Spirit. He is now ready to come into you. All you need to do is believe. If God has not done all these works, then even if you feel radiant and glowing, it means nothing at all.

After Christ comes into us to be our life, there will be a marked change in every way. This change can never be actuated by the restriction of law, the education of morality, or the imposition of improvements and discipline. I can immediately call to mind thirty or forty extremely evil sinners who have drastically changed since they accepted Christ as life. But there are hundreds and thousands of other Christians who, since their acceptance of Christ, can testify to this marvelous change, which is initiated not by discipline and mortification, but by this wonderful, powerful life of Christ that is working in us.

詩歌 補充本18

1. ちちはいのちの源泉、
ちちの御名のなか、
なれのいのちのなか、
なれのいのちのなか、
なれのいのちのなか、
 2. 何とかん謝すべきや、
なが性しつ浸透し、
みことばをとおして、
みことばをとおして、
 3. 三いちのかみの栄光！
何というしゆくふく、
なれの栄光のなかで、
なれの栄光のなかで、
- 子たちはなが表現。
なれはいのちの表現。
われらはすべていち。
ちちよ、われらはいち。
神せいなみことば、
この世から分離する。
われらはすべていち。
われらはいちとなる。
われらかみの子ら。
えい光をひょう現する。
われらはすべていち。
われらはいちとなる。

English 1081

1. Father God, Thou art the source of life.
We, Thy sons, are Thine expression;
In Thy name, our dear possession.
Father God, Thou art the source of life.
In Thy life, in Thy life, We have oneness in Thy life.
In Thy life, in Thy life, In Thy life, O Father, we are one.
2. How we thank Thee that Thy holy Word
With Thy nature, saturates us;
From the world it separates us.
Thank Thee, Father, for Thy holy Word.
Through Thy Word, through Thy Word,
We have oneness through Thy Word.
Through Thy Word, through Thy Word,
Through Thy holy Word we're all made one.
3. Oh, the glory of the Triune God!
We're His sons, oh, what a blessing!
We His glory are expressing —
Oh, the glory of the Triune God!
In Thy glory, in Thy glory,
In Thy glory we are one.
In Thy glory, in Thy glory,
In Thy glory we are all made one!

中補 620

1. 讚美父神是生命源头，我们在你宝贵名里，
作你眾子来彰显你。讚美父神是生命源头。
在生命里，在生命里，在父生命里我们是一。
在生命里，在生命里，在父生命里我们是一。
2. 感谢父藉你宝贵圣言，用你性情浸透我们，
分别我们脱离俗尘。感谢父赐你宝贵圣言。
藉你圣言，藉你圣言，藉你圣言我们成为一。
藉你圣言，藉你圣言，藉你圣言我们成为一。
3. 哦，三一神的神圣荣耀！眾子得享何等福分！
神的荣耀彰显无尽一。哦三一神的神圣荣耀！
在荣耀里，在荣耀里，在你荣耀里我们是一。
在荣耀里，在荣耀里，在荣耀里我们成为一。

詩歌 補充本607(1-4)

1. つみにて死んでいて、この世で調和なし。
かみはわれら生かし、復かつさせ天に座らす。
(復)イエスは集められた！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、
超えつしたあい知り、かみの豊まんへといたる。
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。

English 1232

1. Once by nature we were dead in sin,
In a world of utter discord;
But together God has quickened us,
Raised us up to sit together with the Lord.
C) 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 became:
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.

中補 616

1. 从前我们在罪中死了，这世界全然一团糟；
但神使我们一起復活，一起与基督升天，同坐宝座。
(副) 耶穌聚集我们在一起，请看看圣徒同心合意！
主爱使得我们都一致，达到基督丰满身量的地步。
2. 因此我们能和眾圣徒，一起明白基督的爱；
长阔高深虽然无法测度，但神的丰满，我们一再得著。
3. 神在歷代隱藏的旨意，已成了显明的奥秘；
基督，召会，我们今看见，这真叫撒但受辱，羞惭满面！
4. 我们为此来祷告父神—刚强我们里面的人，
让你安家在我们心里，使我们在你爱中生根立基。