

#4 Taking Christ as Our Person for the One New Man

(The One New Man Fulfilling God's Purpose in Creating Man) 2019/12/2-8

I. For the new man we all need to take Christ as our person:

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

A. In the one new man there is only one person—Christ.

B. We need to see that the church is the one new man and that in this new man we have no place, for Christ is all.

C. Christ is in all of us as one person; therefore, we all have only one person.

D. In the new man all of us are simply one man; the requirement that everyone be only one man is extremely high.

E. The new man is not about members but about the person; therefore, we all need to ask, "Who is my person—I or the Lord Jesus?"

F. What God cares for is whether we live by Christ and take Christ as our person: **John 6:57** ...so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

1. We should not only eat Christ's riches in order to take them in and assimilate them into our being; we should also allow Christ to be our person. **2.** We should take Christ not only to be our life but also to be our person. **Mon**

II. For the practical existence of the one new man, the total person of the old man must be put away, and we must live by our new person:

Rom. 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him...

A. Realizing that our former person has been crucified, we should no longer live in that person, by that person, and with that person.

B. We must deny our former person—"the old man" and the "outer man"—and live by our new person—"the inner man".

2 Cor. 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

C. Our standard for being a Christian should not be right or wrong, good or bad, but a person; the crucial matter is not what we are doing but who is doing it.

D. We should care not for the adjustment of our outward behavior but for the inward shifting from the old person to the new person. **Tue**

III. When we live our life by taking Christ as our person, especially in making decisions, our living will be the living of the new man:

Eph. 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

A. Whereas the Body is for moving, the new man is for living, and eighty to ninety percent of our living is in making decisions.

B. In the new man we take Christ as our person to make plans and to decide how we should live.

C. We need to live a life in the new man by taking Christ as our person, with Him as the One making all the decisions in us.

D. If we take Christ as our person, we will not decide anything in our life by ourselves: **Philem. 14** But without your mind I did not want to do anything, that your goodness would not be as of necessity, but

voluntary.

1. Once we see that we are a part of the one new man, we will not be able to decide things merely by ourselves. **2.** Since we are part of the new man, our decisions and our living should not be ours; they should be the decisions and living of the corporate new man; this is the ultimate requirement.

3. The living of the new man is a corporate living; therefore, our decisions are corporate decisions and not personal decisions. **4.** We need to see that we are a corporate Body and a corporate new man and that both our living and our moving are corporate. **Wed**

IV. Paul is a pattern of taking Christ as our person for the one new man:

A. "It pleased God...to reveal His Son in me" (Gal. 1:15b-16a):

1. Nothing is more pleasing to God than the unveiling of the living person of the Son of God.

2. We need to be brought into a state where we are full of the revelation of the Son of God and thereby become a new creation with Christ living in us.

B. "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20a):

1. Paul did not say that the life of Christ lived in him but that Christ the person lived in him. **2.** God's economy is that the "I" be crucified in Christ's death and that Christ live in us in His resurrection.

C. "My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you" (Gal. 4:19):

1. To have Christ formed in us is to have Christ fully grown in us.

2. Christ has been born into us, He is now living in us, and He will be formed in us at our maturity. **Thu**

D. "That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith" (Eph. 3:17a): Eph. 3:14-17

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named, That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

1. God the Father is exercising His authority through God the Spirit to strengthen us into the inner man that God the Son may make His home deep down in our heart.

2. If we allow Christ to have all the room within us and if we give Him the full liberty to do whatever He wants in us, our heart will become His home.

E. "God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:8):

1. Paul did not live a life in his natural inner being; he lived a life in the inward parts of Christ, experienced Christ in His inward parts, and was one with Christ in His inward parts. **2.** Paul did not keep his own inward parts but took Christ's inward parts as his; Paul's inner being was reconstituted with the inward parts of Christ.

F. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5):

1. To let Christ's mind be in us is to take Christ as our person by denying our natural mind and taking His mind. **2.** If we intend to take Christ as our person, we must be willing to deny our mind and have our mind replaced by the mind of Christ.

G. "For also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ" (2 Cor. 2:10b):

1. Paul lived Christ in the closest and most intimate

contact with Him, acting according to the index of His eyes.

2. Paul was a person who was one with Christ, full of Christ, and saturated with Christ; he was a person broken and even terminated in his natural life, softened and flexible in his will, affectionate yet restricted in his emotion, considerate and sober in his mind, and pure and genuine in his spirit toward the saints for their benefit.

H. “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” (Rom. 8:4): **1.** In practicality, to take Christ as our person is to have our being wholly according to the mingled spirit. **2.** In our daily life we should not have our being according to teaching, feelings, concepts, or circumstances but according to the mingled spirit, taking Christ as our person for the universal one new man. **Fri**

V. If we are unveiled and enlightened, we will see that today in the Lord’s recovery we need to rise up together to take Christ as our person for the one new man:

Eph. 4:11-13 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers. For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ. Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

A. The gifted persons—the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers—should take this as their goal.

B. We need to perfect the saints in every locality so that they may enter into a situation where they take Christ as their person for the one new man.

C. If all the saints in the Lord’s recovery take Christ as their person, then spontaneously we all will be the one new man.

D. “Ultimately, the Bible speaks of the church as the one new man...In the new man there is nothing but the person. This level is so high that it cannot be higher, so strict that it cannot be stricter, and so intimate that it cannot be more intimate. All are one new man; this one new man has only one person, and this person is the Lord Jesus”. **Sat**

Crucial Point(1): Since the 80-90 % of our daily life is decision, Christ cannot be real if you don’t make Christ as your person

OL1: We need to see that the church is the one new man and that in this new man we have no place, for Christ is all.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

OL2: We all need to ask, “Who is my person—I or the Lord Jesus?” **OL3:** We must deny our former person—“the old man” and the “outer man”—and live by our new person—“the inner man”.

OL4: Our standard for being a Christian should not be right or wrong, good or bad, but a person; the crucial matter is not what we are doing but who is doing it.

We need to see the development from our new birth to the one new man where Christ is all and in all...Before being saved, man is a soul, a person, with two organs: the body as an outward organ to contact the outward, physical world, and the spirit as an inward organ to contact God and the spiritual world. When we believed in the Lord Jesus and received Him, He came into our spirit as life... Formerly, we had only the human life in our soul, but now we have the divine life in our spirit... Formerly, [our spirit] was only an organ because it did not have life, but now it has also become a person with a life...

Formerly, we were people in the soul, but now we must be people in the spirit. Our soul, our former person, has already been “crucified with Christ”. We have to take this fact and put it into our practice. Realizing that our former person has been crucified, we should not live in that person, by that person, or with that person anymore. We have to deny our former person, which the Bible calls “the old man” and the “outer man”, and we have to live by our new person,

How do we apply this in our daily living? Suppose a brother intends to go to a department store to buy something. He should not check whether that is the Lord’s will or not. The first thing he has to check is whether his going is being initiated from his soul or from his spirit. Is it being initiated by his former person or by his present person, by the old man or the new man, by the soulish man or the inner man?

If we know how to deal desperately with Christ, how to feed on Christ through pray-reading the Word, how to drink of Him by calling on His name, and how to breathe Him in day by day, we will be one with Him in our spirit. This will cause us, day by day, to grow in our new person.

Application to young people and college students

In the one new man, Christ is all the members and in all the members. Upon this understanding, you need to practice this matter. For you to practice, please learn to make Christ your person.

(1) Revived every morning: First, please build up the life of enjoying Christ as life in the beginning of the day, morning. Without enjoying Christ by reading and pray-reading the Word, we cannot make Christ as person as the next step.

(2) Train yourself to make Christ your person in the daily living: The 80-90 % of human living is decision. If you don’t train yourself to make Christ as your person, it means there is almost no Christ in your living. For instance, you were enlightened in the meeting and had the feeling that for the blending you need to study English to fellowship with brothers and sisters from other countries. But when the brothers and sisters from other countries who speak English actually, you might think like “I haven’t studied enough. So let’s challenge next time. I won’t speak to them this time” and made decision. Are these thought and decision from yourself or the indwelling Christ? In this case, please pray like this, “I

am timid and hesitate to speak English. Lord Jesus, learning English is for the Lord and for the church and you have given me the feeling that comes from the enlightenment in the meeting. Now I need to ask myself. Whom am I making my person? Is it me or Lord Jesus? Let me learn to make Christ as my person practically in this matter. Amen! ”.

Crucial Point(2): Expressing the life of the new man in our marriage life where a wife being subject to her husband and a husband loving his wife

OL1: Since we are part of the new man, our decisions and our living should not be ours; they should be the decisions and living of the corporate new man; this is the ultimate requirement.

OL2: Paul did not say that the life of Christ lived in him but that Christ the person lived in him.

OL3: God’s economy is that the “I” be crucified in Christ’s death and that Christ live in us in His resurrection.

Whether it is the Body or the new man, whether in working and moving or in living and deciding, everything is corporate; nothing is individual. You must see that your living today is the living of the new man, a corporate living, and your decisions are corporate decisions and not your personal decisions. ...If you see that you are a part in the new man, you will not want to decide by yourself as the person. You will want to take Christ as your person together with all the other parts in the new man. At this time, when you are about to make a decision concerning your human life, you will not take yourself as the person; rather, you will take Christ as your person in the new man to make the decision.

It is a fact that Christ has abolished the ordinances in order to create the Jews and the Gentiles into one new man. But for this to be practical in our daily experience, we must allow Christ to make His home in our hearts. One way to tell whether or not you still have ordinances is to check whether or not Christ is making His home in your heart. Are you allowing Him to make His home in your heart? If we are honest, most of us would have to say that we do not give Him much opportunity to do this. The reason for this is that we do not care firstly for Christ, but for our own way.

When the Lord speaks something to us, we often respond, “Not so, Lord.” We may say, “Lord, I don’t believe that You would ask me to do such a thing.” Our experience testifies that whenever we refuse to go along with the Lord, we lose His presence and His anointing. However, when we agree with the Lord, we enjoy His presence and experience the inner anointing in a fresh way. We may even be beside ourselves with joy in the Lord.

Many married sisters are reluctant to read Ephesians 5 because it speaks about wives submitting to their own husbands. When they read this chapter, they are exposed and realize that they are not submissive. Some may blame their husband or environment for their lack of submission. They may even blame the Lord and tell Him that if He had given them a different husband, they would surely be submissive to him. Sisters, do not try to submit to your husband but let Christ make His home in your heart. If you take Him as your person and allow Him to make His home in your heart, you will surely submit to your husband.... God

does not want us to try in a religious way to submit to our husbands or to love our wives. His concern is that we take Christ as our person and set aside all ordinances.

Application to Marriage Life

After Ephesians 4:22-24 talks about putting off the old man and putting on the new man by renewing in the spirit of your mind, 4:25-5:21 talks about the details of the living, and 5:22-6:9 talks about the details of the relationship. The first issue regarding the detail of the relationship is about marriage life. This shows that in the church life of the new man, the relationship between a husband and a wife is crucial.

Wives should be subject to their husbands. Husbands should love their wives. You must not take these as merely ethical teachings. Instead, they must be joined with “putting on the new man”. You are not “to be subject” or “to love” to do ethically good behavior, but as a result of taking Christ as your life and person you become able “to be subject” or “to love.” Don’t set your mind on improving ethical behavior, but take Christ as your life and person. You should not just understand the bible literally but understand in context.

Prayer: “O Lord Jesus, in the church life of the new man, marriage life is crucial. In my marriage life, I don’t take ‘to be subject’ and ‘to love’ as something of improvement of outward behavior, but I take them of expressions resulted by setting mind on the spirit and taking Christ as my life and person. Every morning, I pray-read the Word and enjoy the Lord. In my daily life, especially in my marriage life, let me learn to take Christ as my person. Amen!”

Crucial Point(3): The church life of the new man is to: ① hold Christ and the church in love, ② grow into Christ, the head, and ③ function with what comes out of Christ.

OL1: Paul was a person who was one with Christ, full of Christ, and saturated with Christ; he was a person broken and even terminated in his natural life, softened and flexible in his will, affectionate yet restricted in his emotion, considerate and sober in his mind, and pure and genuine in his spirit toward the saints for their benefit.

OL2: “Ultimately, the Bible speaks of the church as the one new man... In the new man there is nothing but the person. This level is so high that it cannot be higher, so strict that it cannot be stricter, and so intimate that it cannot be more intimate. All are one new man; this one new man has only one person, and this person is the Lord Jesus.”

Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, **16**. 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.

Ephesians 4:15-16 is a very short passage in the Bible, but the entire secret is contained here. The secret that all the saints on the entire earth will become the one new man depends first on holding to truth in love.

Next, we must grow up into Christ in all things.... In verse 15 all things mean every single thing, whether big or small; we must grow up into Christ in all things.... Your dealings with others, your managing of affairs, and the way you treat

people must be in the Spirit. You need to get into the Spirit in all things.

We need to hold to Christ as the truth and grow into Christ, the life-giving Spirit, in all things. This will make us the new man. If we grow up into Christ in all things, then in Christ there will not be this kind of person or that kind of person. We will no longer be many different kinds of people.

Verse 16 continues by saying that the whole Body is from Him and out of Him, something that comes out from Him. If you have never grown up into Him, then you could never come out from Him....When we grow up into Christ in this way, spontaneously we will allow Christ to be the person. Christ as the person is not individual or local but universal....If all the brothers and sisters in all six continents take Christ as the person, then spontaneously all the brothers and sisters on the earth in His recovery will be the one new man.

For the young working saints and graduate students

In order to have a blessed business life, please pay attention to the following three things.

(1) Holding to truth: The only thing that is true and real in the universe is Christ and the church, the Body of Christ. You need to hold Christ and the church life firmly in love. If you are busy with work and research and cannot attend the meeting, you are holding work and research firmly, not the truth. Even if you are busy with work or research, keep the truth firmly. Then you will be blessed.

(2) Grow up into Christ, the head of everything: In all things, especially by making Christ the life and the person in the decision, we can grow into Christ, the Head. For example, when a project encounters difficulty, you must choose between **a)** canceling the project, **b)** changing the strategy for carrying out the project, or **c)** changing the project members. In this case, instead of following the previous precedent after collecting information, to train to take Christ as a person, open to the indwelling Christ and pray as follows. "Oh Lord Jesus, our project is in a difficult situation. I must decide whether this project should be canceled, change strategy, or change project members. The situation will get worse if I leave it undecided. Lord, I open to you and call on Your name. No matter how much information I collect, I can't understand and gain insight into everything. I take You as my person to decide."

(3) Functioning out of Christ, the Head: Only when you grow into Christ can you be composed of Christ and function out of Christ. Service that does not come out of Christ is not useful for the building. Growing into Christ in all things in business life and research life gives you the ability to build in your church life.

(4) Summary: Your church life can bless your business life, and the experience of Christ as a person in business life leads you to service for the building of the church.

The Mystery of Human Life(2)

The Miserable Situation of Human(3): "Righteousness"

A. "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." —Righteousness denotes that which is right and proper. Those who live in the kingdom of God should be right and proper toward others, toward things, and toward God; with them there should be nothing erroneous, improper, crooked, slanted, or biased....If we are righteous, right, and proper toward others, toward things and toward God, we will have a peaceful relationship with others and with God. (Rom. 14:17&FN2)

B. "For all of us became like him who is unclean, And all our righteousnesses are like a soiled garment." (Isa. 64: 6a)

C. "For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith." —It is God's righteousness, not ours, that is revealed in the gospel of God. Hence, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. (Rom. 1:17&FN1)

D. "For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to everyone who believes." —Everyone who believes in Him receives God's righteousness which is Christ Himself. (Rom. 10:4&FN1)

E. "Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." —Through Christ's redemption, man, who is a sinner and is even sin, is made God's righteousness, being reconciled to the righteous God, and is made a new creation living to God for His eternal purpose. (2 Cor. 5:21&FN3)