

Message Four

Taking Christ as our Person to Live the Life of the New Man

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; 3:17a; Col. 1:27; 3:4, 10-11

I. For the new man we all need to take Christ as our person—Eph. 2:15; 3:17a:

- A. Christ is both the life of the Body and the person of the new man—Col. 3:4; Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. The church is the Body, and this Body needs Christ to be in it as life.
 - 2. The church is also the one new man, and this one new man needs Christ to be in him as his person.
- B. The new man is not about members (Rom. 12:4-5) but about the person; therefore, we all need to ask, “Who is my person—I or the Lord Jesus?”
- C. In the one new man the natural man has no place; we all have no place in the new man, for here Christ is all and in all—Col. 3:10-11.
- D. Christ is in all of us, so we all have only one person—1:27; Eph. 3:17a.
- E. What God cares for is whether we live by Christ and take Christ as our person—John 6:57b; Phil 1:21a; Col. 3:4; Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. We should not only eat Christ’s riches in order to take them and assimilate them into our being; we should also allow Christ to be our person—vv. 8, 17a.
 - 2. We should take Christ not only to be our life but also to be our person.
- F. What is first is not taking Christ as our life but taking Christ as our person:
 - 1. If we take Christ as our person, we will surely take Him as our life—1 John 5:11-12; Col. 3:4.
 - 2. If we take Christ as our person, then we will be able to grow and mature—2:19; Eph. 4:13-16:
 - a. Taking Christ as our person is for the growth of the new man.
 - b. Taking Christ as our life is for the increase of the measure of the stature of the Body.

II. 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—John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 17:4; Rom. 15:32; James 4:13-15:

- 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—Phil. 1:21-26.
- B. In the new man we take Christ as our person to make plans and to decide how we should live—Rom. 15:32.
- C. If we take Christ as our person, we will not decide anything in our life by ourselves—Philem. 14:
 - 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.

3. The living of the new man is a corporate living; therefore, our decisions are corporate decisions and not our personal decisions—1 Cor. 4:19.

III. The apostle Paul is a pattern of taking Christ as the person—1 Tim. 1:16:

- A. “It pleased God...to reveal His Son in me”—Gal. 1:15a, 16a.
- B. “I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me”—2:20a.
- C. “My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you”—4:19.
- D. “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”—3:27.
- E. “That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith”—Eph. 3:17a.
- F. “God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus”—Phil. 1:8.
- G. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”—2:5.
- H. “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.
- I. “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.