

KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING LIFE

Session Ten

Building Up Of the Body of Christ in Oneness and Having a Normal Church Life

Scripture Reading: John 1:12; 1 Cor. 12:27; Matt. 7:17-18; John 14:6; 15:16; Matt. 28:19; 1 Pet. 2:2; Eph. 4:3, 11-12a; Heb. 1:9; 3:14; 2 Tim. 2:22; Matt. 18:19; 28:18-20; 1 Pet. 1:23; 2:2; 2 Tim. 2:2; John 12:24; 1 Cor. 14:1, 4, 12, 26, 39; Psalms 45:1; Matt. 16:18

Outline

I. The building up of the body of Christ in oneness:

- A. Life issues in the building up of the Body of Christ; when we first believed, we received the life of God into our spirit; on one hand, we become the sons of God and on the other hand, we become the members of the Body of Christ—John 1:12; 1 Cor. 12:27.
- B. The Body of Christ, the church, is not an organization but an organism, an issue of the dispensing of the Triune God into us as life; because we are the Body of Christ, we can never be independent of one another.
- C. The way to build up the Body of Christ:
 - 1. The first thing we must do to build up the Body of Christ is to preach the gospel—John 15:16.
 - 2. These newly saved members and we must grow in life for the Body of Christ—1 Pet. 2:2.
 - 3. Without oneness, there is no way to build up the Body of Christ; therefore, we all must be diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit—Eph. 4:3.
 - 4. There are certain ones in the Body of Christ that are gifts to the Body; they have special functions to perfect the saints; we need perfecting in order to build up the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:11-12a.
 - 5. After being perfected, the saints must function according to the extent they have been perfected to build up the Body of Christ—v. 12.

II. Having a normal church life:

- A. One of the first things we need in the church life is to have partners, companions; it is so good to have partners in Christ to experience life and grow together; our partners make the church life more real and more dear to us—2 Tim. 2:22.
- B. Preaching Christ to beget members for the Body of Christ; the preaching of the gospel is the way to carry out God's economy in life—Matt. 28:19; John 15:16.
- C. After they have believed and are baptized, they are saved, having been born of God to be members of the Body of Christ; they are babes needing to be fed with the milk of the word that they may grow—1 Pet. 2:2.
- D. After the new ones become more established in the faith, you need to perfect them further; you must teach them everything you have learned—Matt. 28:20; 2 Tim. 2:2.
- E. The final step is to prophesy and help your new ones to prophecy in the church meeting so that you may build up the church, the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 14:4b.

Focus: *The burden of this final lesson is to lead the young people into a normal and healthy church life. In order to maintain their freshness and vitality in the Lord, they need the church life and they*

need a gospel-preaching life. We must lead them to be burdened for their unbelieving friends and relatives to share the gospel and raise up young ones for the building up of the Body of Christ.

READING MATERIALS:

The Body of Christ, chapter 2

Living Uniquely for the Gospel, pp. 31-32

Further Light Concerning the Building Up of the Body of Christ, chapter 1

Questions

1. Tell us what the second issue of the life of God is. Find some verses in the Bible that reveal this. Are you experiencing this?
2. Using a verse in the Bible, explain what the church is.
3. What is one of the things that God hates that we should put under our feet?
4. Summarize the five ways to build up the Body of Christ.
5. Have you experienced or practiced any of the above? If not, do you know why? If yes, can you explain it?
6. What are the five steps to have a normal church life?
7. Define what the gospel is. Is this gospel the goal of your life?
8. What are the three foundation stones of a Christian life? Can you give two verses for each item?
9. What are you perfected in? Have you perfected others?
10. Compose a fifty-word prophecy out of this lesson and speak it to your class.

Memory Verses

1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace.

Eph. 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ.

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

Eph. 4:16 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.

2 Tim. 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.