

HWMR - THE GENUINE CHURCH LIFE, Week 06

**Living in the Resurrection Life of Christ
under the Unique Headship of Christ
and Growing Up into the Head, Christ,
in All Things for the Reality and Building Up of the Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 1:9; Col. 1:18; 2:19; Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:10; 1 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 4:15-16

- 2 Corinthians 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our **confidence** on ourselves but **on God**, who **raises the dead**;
- Colossians 1:18 And He is the **Head of the Body**, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the **first place in all things**;
- Colossians 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, **grows with the growth of God**.
- Phil. 1:19-21 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, According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. For to me, **to live is Christ** and to die is gain.
- Philippians 3:10 To know Him and the **power of His resurrection** and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being conformed to His death**,
- I Corinthians 6:17 But **he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit**.
- Ephesians 4:15-16 But holding to truth in love, **we may grow up into Him in all things**, who is **the Head, Christ**, 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.

We must realize that if we are going to practice the real church life, we must **submit** ourselves under the **Headship of Christ**. When we are about to say something to the brothers and sisters, we must first test and check whether we are currently under the Headship of Christ. If we are not, we should stop. If we are not under the headship, and we say something about the church, we are speaking in a **rebellious way**. No matter how nice our attitude is, it is false and hypocritical. **Our real need is to submit ourselves under the Headship of Christ**. If we are under the Headship of Christ, we will have a **pure motive** and a **right attitude**, even if we speak very frankly. But if we are not under the Headship of Christ and simply pretend to be nice, we are being political; we are playing politics among the saints.

We must be sincere, open, and frank. Of course, we must also be polite and nice, but **we should not pretend**. A person who is under the Headship of Christ is true, real, and sincere. We may open our heart to a brother to speak something in a serious and frank way, even with heavy words, but if we are submitting ourselves under the headship of the Lord, **the Holy Spirit within** the brother's spirit **will testify** that our motive is pure and our attitude is right. But on the contrary, if we are not under the headship of the Lord and come to a brother, pretending that we are so good and spiritual, we are **playing politics** and are a **hypocrite** among the saints. In this case, the Holy Spirit **cannot testify for us**. The church has been constantly damaged by these **political maneuvers**. We must have no political maneuvers. All of us, especially the leading ones, **must submit** ourselves under the headship. (Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life, Chapter 3, Section 2)

I. The church as the Body of Christ is an **organism absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ—Col. 1:18; John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18; 2:8; Phil. 3:10:**

- A. The **principle of resurrection** is that the natural life is killed and that **the divine life rises up** in its place—2 Cor. 1:9.
- B. In our natural life and in the old creation, we are not the Body; **we are the Body in the new creation** germinated by Christ's resurrection—Eph. 1:19-23.
- C. To be in resurrection means that **our natural life is crucified** and that the God-created and redeemed part of our being is uplifted to be one with Christ in resurrection—Rom. 6:4, 6; 8:2, 11; Gal. 2:20.
- D. When we live not by our natural life but by the divine life within us, we are in resurrection, and the **issue** of this is the Body of Christ—Rom. 6:6; 8:11; 12:4-5:
 1. The **leadership** among God's people must be Christ Himself as the resurrection life that buds, blossoms, and bears almonds—Num. 17:8.
 2. **Everything we say, everything we do, and everything we are in the church life as an expression of the Body of Christ must be in resurrection.**

II. Christ is the unique **Head of the Body, the church, corporately and of all the believers individually; He is the Head directly of every one of us—Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 11:3:**

- A. The **Head** is a matter of **authority**; for Christ to be the Head is for Him to have all the authority in the Body—Col. 1:18; Matt. 28:18:
 1. To be under the **headship** of Christ is to be absolutely under His authority— Eph. 4:15.

2. The authority to direct the Body and **all its members rests with the Head**.
- B. Whether we are under the authority of the Head determines whether we know the life of the Body—1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 1:18; 3:4:
1. The Body can have **only one Head** and can submit only to one Head—1:18.
 2. Christ is the unique Head, and we must submit to Him, honoring and testifying to **the unique headship of Christ**—Eph. 1:22-23; Matt. 23:8-12.
 3. The members of the Body are **fitted together** and are able to live the Body life through holding the Head; our relationship with the Head determines our relationship to the other members—Eph. 4:15-16; 1 Cor. 12:18, 27.

III. The reality of the Body of Christ is a group of God's redeemed who have been made the God-men by God and who live not by themselves but by another life, which is the processed and consummated Triune God—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:10:

- A. The reality of the Body of Christ is a **corporate living** by the perfected God-men, who are **genuine men** but who do not live by their own life but by the life of the processed and consummated Triune God, whose attributes are expressed through their virtues—1:19-21a.
- B. The **reality** of the Body of Christ is a **living by all the God-men**, united, mingled, and constituted together with God by mingling humanity with divinity and mingling divinity with humanity—John 14:20.
- C. The **reality** of the Body of Christ is a corporate **living of the conformity to the death of Christ** through the power of His resurrection—Phil. 3:10.
- D. Because the Body of Christ is in the mingled spirit, to be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to be in the mingled spirit and to live in the mingled spirit—Rom. 8:4; 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:12-13, 27:
1. **To live, act, and move in the mingled spirit is to live, act, and move in the Body and to be in the reality of the Body**—Rom. 8:4; 12:4-5.
 2. To be in the mingled spirit is to be in the Body of Christ actually and practically—1 Cor. 6:17; 12:12-13, 27.

IV. We need to grow up into the Head, Christ, in all things—Eph. 4:15:

- A. To **grow up** into Christ is to have **Christ increase in us** in all things until we attain to a full-grown man—vv. 15, 13.
- B. The word **Head** in Ephesians 4:15 indicates that our growth in life by the increase of Christ in us should be the growth of the members in the Body under the Head.
- C. **We need to grow up into Christ in all things, that is, in every single thing, whether big or small**—v. 15:
1. There are still many things in which we have not grown up into Christ; in these things we are not in Christ but are outside of Christ.
 2. When we all grow up into Christ in all things, we will all be one in Christ.
- D. To **grow in life** is to grow with the growth of God; the growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the increase of God, within us—Col. 2:19.

V. The growth of the Body is the building up of the Body—Eph. 4:16:

- A. The **growth of the Body of Christ** is the **increase of Christ in the church**, which results in the building up of the Body by the Body itself—3:17a:
1. When Christ enters into the saints and lives within them, the **Christ within the saints becomes the church**—Col. 3:10-11.
 2. The Body of Christ grows by the growth of Christ within us and is built up this way—1:18; 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.
- B. The Body **builds itself up in love**—v. 16:
1. The love in which the Body builds itself up is **not** our own love **but** the love of God in Christ, which becomes the love of Christ in us, by which we love Christ and the fellow members of His Body—1 John 4:7-8, 11, 16, 19.
 2. **Love is the inner substance of God**; when we enter into God's inner substance, we enjoy God as love and enjoy His presence in the sweetness of the divine love, and thereby love others as Christ did—Eph. 5:25.
 3. **We need to be brought into love as the inner substance of God for the building up of the Body of Christ**—4:12, 16.

Being Careful Not to Insult the Headship Of Christ

In order to know how to conduct ourselves in the house of God, we first must **be careful not to insult the Headship of Christ** in anything we do. Suppose a brother does not make decisions for himself and instead prefers to depend on an elder to make decisions for him. In a sense, it is good that a young believer who is unlearned and inexperienced would not trust in himself but would seek help from an elder. In another sense, this is not good, because **no believer is a leader with the authority to make decisions for another believer. The unique Leader is the Lord Jesus.**

In this situation, because the younger brother is inexperienced, the responsibility to know and apply this principle does not fall mainly upon him but upon the elder. The elder should immediately begin to instruct him and establish him, saying, *“Brother, I can render some help to you, but you must know that I am not the Lord. I have no right to make any decision for you. The Lord Jesus is your Lord and my Lord also. You must learn how to exercise your spirit. Yes, you are a new believer, but the Lord Jesus is in you as the Spirit. Do not ask me whether or not you should go to see a movie. Instead, you should ask the Lord in prayer.”* In this way both brothers will respect the Headship of Christ. **If an elder makes a decision for a new believer, regardless of whether the elder does it with a good heart or with a critical attitude, he insults Christ's headship.** Many brothers often unconsciously insult the Headship of Christ. **It is a serious thing for an elder to become the lord by telling a saint what to do.** We must properly conduct ourselves in the house of God by helping our fellow believers in a way that **honors the Headship of Christ** and by **encouraging the dear younger ones to learn how to contact the Lord.** This will make a great difference. (Crucial Principles for the Christian Life and the Church Life, Chapter 7, Section 3)