

CHURCH IN REGINA

1 Cor. 3:6—I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.”

HWMR Week 2—The Intrinsic Growth of the Church for Its Organic Increase

In Colossians 2:19 Paul speaks of “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...” God’s economy is to head up all things in Christ through His Body, the church, thereby making Christ the center of all things (Eph. 1:10, 22-23). The **device of the subtle one** is to **carry the saints away** and to **cause the Body to collapse...** Paul’s revelation was to **uplift Christ** and to **safeguard and build up the Body**. We need to be preserved in Christ for the church life.

To be preserved in Christ for the church life is to hold Him as the Head, out from whom the Body grows with the growth of God. **Growth is a matter of life, which is God Himself**. As the Body of Christ, the church should not be deprived of Christ, who is the embodiment of God as the source of life. By holding Christ, the church grows with the growth of God, with the increase of God as life.

This growth takes place as all the Body is being **richly supplied** and **knit together** by means of the joints and sinews. **Joints** are for the **supply of the Body**, whereas **sinews** are for the **knitting together of the members of the Body**. In the church some members are joints and others are sinews. By means of the joints and sinews, the Body grows. This indicates that **we cannot grow with the growth of God individualistically; we need to be in the church**.

To understand properly what it means to **hold the Head**, we need to consider Colossians 2:16 and 17, where Paul tells us that Christ is the body, the substance, the reality, of all the shadows, such as eating, drinking, Sabbaths, new moons, and feasts. Based upon this fact, Paul warns us **not to allow anyone to purposely defraud us of our prize, the subjective enjoyment of Christ**. Those who seek to defraud us are the ones who stand on things which they have seen and who do not hold the Head. Thus, there is a connection between Christ as the body of the shadows and holding the Head. In other words, the **Christ who is the reality of all positive things is the One who is the Head of the Body**. **If we would know what it means to hold the Head, we must know what it is to enjoy Christ as the reality of all positive things**. Without enjoying Christ in this way, we cannot experientially hold Him as the Head. Therefore, we can say that to hold the Head is simply to enjoy Christ as the reality of all positive things.

The genuine Christian life is a life of enjoying Christ. We need to enjoy the Lord **all day long**. Whenever we enjoy Christ continually, we automatically hold Him as the Head. Thus, the best way to hold Christ as the Head is to enjoy Him. **There is no better way to hold Christ than to eat Him**. Just as we hold food by taking it into us and eating it, so we hold Christ by eating Him...

Holding the Head is **also equal to abiding in Christ** (John 15:4). To hold the Head implies that we are not detached, or severed, from Him. At the time that Paul wrote to the Colossians, they had been somewhat detached from Christ by their culture. Culture can be a form of insulation which keeps us from Christ. **To hold the Head is to remain in Christ without any insulation between us and Him...**

Furthermore, because Christ’s headship is in resurrection, **the enjoyment of Christ spontaneously brings us into resurrection and saves us from our natural being**. We all are natural. If we are not brought into resurrection through the enjoyment of Christ, we will remain in our natural person. **The more we enjoy Him, the less natural we are.**

Church Meetings:

Lord’s Table Meeting

Lord’s Day
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays
7:00 - 8:00 PM

College Meeting

Fridays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Small Group Meeting

Fridays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Young Peoples’ Meeting

Saturdays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Conferences & Trainings:

July Semiannual Training
July 5-10, 2021

October International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones

October 7-9, 2021

International Thanksgiving Weekend Conference

November 25-28, 2021

Contact Information:

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NEW LANGUAGE

Christ died as the brass serpent destroying the Devil.

The enjoyment of Christ also brings us into the ascension. The more we enjoy Him, the more we are in the heavenlies experientially. This means that through the enjoyment of Christ, we become heavenly. We are not only no longer natural but also no longer earthly. The enjoyment of Christ causes us to be both in resurrection and in ascension. **The more we enjoy Christ, the more we are in the heavens.** Therefore, to hold Christ as the Head is to be in the heavens in our experience. It is also true to say that to be in the heavens is to hold the Head. Experientially, holding the Head and being in the heavens are one and the same.

If in our experience we temporarily abandon Christ and do not continue holding Him as the Head, we will sense that we are earthly. **Whenever we are earthly, we are not holding the Head,** but if in our daily life we consistently enjoy Christ, we will hold Him as the Head and be in the heavens in our experience. Then we will be a heavenly people.

According to Colossians 3:1-4, our **living** should be in the heavens, where God's throne is. On the one hand, Christ as our Head is in our spirit (1:27; 2 Tim. 4:22); on the other hand, He is in the heavens, not on earth (Col. 3:1). Only when we are in the heavens do we hold Him as the Head. To enjoy Christ is to hold the Head, and to hold the Head is to be in the heavens.

We can be experientially in the heavens only by enjoying Christ, the Head, as the life-giving Spirit in our spirit. Second Corinthians 3:17 says, "The Lord is the Spirit." If Christ were only the Head and not the Spirit, there would be no way for us to contact Him or hold Him experientially. But although Christ's position is that of the Head, in our experience He is the life-giving Spirit. According to 2 Timothy 4:22, the Lord, who is the Spirit, is now with our spirit. In the heavens Christ is the Head, but in our spirit He is the Spirit. Therefore, to hold Christ as the Head is not only to enjoy Him and to be in the heavens; it is also to be in our spirit. **If we would hold the Head, we must be in spirit.**

In Colossians 2:17 Paul says that the body, the reality, of all the shadows is of Christ, but in verse 19 he speaks not of Christ but of holding the Head. The reason for the change in terminology from Christ to the Head is that **our enjoyment of the Lord causes us to become conscious of the Body.** If we enjoy Christ continually, we will not continue to be individualistic. The saints who are individualistic are those who do not consistently enjoy the Lord. The more we enjoy Christ, the more we become Body-conscious. **We should touch the Lord in the morning, but in the evening we should come to the church meetings.** It is not normal to enjoy the Lord during the day and neglect the meetings of the church, which is His Body. Even if our environment does not allow us to attend all the meetings, inwardly we should have the sense that our whole inner being is with the saints in the church meeting. This consciousness of the Body comes from the enjoyment of Christ.

What we enjoy of Christ day by day is actually something of Him as the Head. This is the reason that when we enjoy Christ, He causes us to become conscious of the Body. **The more we enjoy Christ, the more intense is our desire for the Body.** However, **if we fail to contact the Lord** for a period of time, we will **automatically neglect the church life** or lose interest in the meetings. The less we contact the Lord, the more we become critical of the church or the saints. We have an eye for the faults and shortcomings of others. This shortage of the enjoyment of Christ opens the door for the enemy, Satan, to come in to make us critical of other members of the Body. But if we begin again to enjoy the Lord, the door will gradually close. Eventually, if we continually enjoy Christ, the door will be completely shut...

When we enjoy Christ in the heavens and in our spirit, we hold the Head and absorb His riches. Then out from the Head something will proceed to produce the growth of God in us. This means that more of the element of God is added into our being and thereby into the Body. This causes the Body to grow with the growth, the increase, of God.

In order to have **genuine growth**, we must first be rooted in Christ, our good land. We are plants rooted in Christ as the soil. As a tree grows, it absorbs water and nourishing elements from the soil in which it is rooted. As these riches are absorbed by the tree, they become the increase of the tree. The tree grows with the increase of the riches from the soil. In like manner, **we are living plants rooted in Christ as our soil.** What we absorb of Christ into us—the element of the riches of Himself as the soil—becomes the increase of God within us. Our land is Christ, and Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God. Therefore, the land is the Triune God. This means that when we absorb the riches of the soil, we absorb the riches of the Triune God. Actually, we absorb the Triune God Himself. Through this absorption, we take more of God into us. **This increase of God within us is what we mean by the growth of God.** (*The Conclusion of the New Testament, Msg 356*)

Announcements:

1. Brothers' Meeting on June 27, 2021 at 7pm.
2. Church Pursuit on July 1, 2021 at 4pm.

Prayer Burdens:

1. Lord Jesus grow in us. You are eternal, perfect, and complete but we still have too much element of our self. Shine in us and judge us that our self may be killed and so that Your element may increase in us.
2. Lord we come to You and to Your word with a seeking heart. Make us Your loving-seekers. Feed us with Your word and water us by the supply of others. Come into every part of our being and grow within us.
3. Fill us until we become Your fullness. Increase our appetite to eat, enjoy, and receive more of You into our being until we, as the church become Your fullness and Your expression.
4. Lord, have mercy on us that we may daily experience and enjoy You to become Your fullness. Save us from anything that is not Your fullness, Constitute us with Your fullness until we all arrive at the measure of the stature of Christ.
5. Cause us to have the desire for You to increase and for us to decrease. Continue to speak the rhema word to us. May the Word become spirit and life to us and make us Your bride.
6. Lord, we want to practice being one spirit with You in speaking Your words. You are the Word spoken by God to give life. Make our speaking Your speaking that others would receive Your life and be Your increase.

Other Burdens:

1. Pray for the upcoming term of the FTTA Middle-Age Training. 2021 Fall semester will begin on August 30. May there be many middle-aged brothers and sisters who realize that they too need to be perfected in the areas of truth, life, character, service, and the gospel.
2. Please pray for the migration of burdened saints to six designated European cities—Barcelona, Brussels, Dublin, Lisbon, Rome, and Zurich.

Church in Regina:

1. Goal of 50 meeting ones by end of 2021. Synchronized prayer for our contacts every day.
2. Strengthen and preserve our families. Thank You for loving us first with an eternal love. We praise and thank You for we have been betrothed and Your love for us makes us one with You. May all of us be brought into oneness with You and become one with You in life, nature, and expression.
3. Pray for Aitong Liu's immigration application. Select them in Your time that they may also come here, be saved, see the church and be Your testimony.
4. Pray for Sister Estela Miranda's upcoming shoulder surgery (rotator cuff repair) on July 6. Strengthen her in her inner man and we pray for her full and complete recovery.
5. Pray for Bro. Dindo Ballao's health and continuing recovery. Preserve the whole family as they settle here in Regina for Your testimony.