

CHURCH IN REGINA

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

HWMR Week 3—The Intrinsic Building Up of the Church for Its Organic Function

Arriving at Three Things

Ephesians 4:13 says, “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**.” This verse is the direct continuation of verses 11 and 12, which say that the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers have been given for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of ministry. We have pointed out that the gifted ones in verse 11 perfect the saints to do the same things that they themselves do. We all can be sent out and we all can speak for the Lord as prophets, preach the gospel as evangelists, and shepherd others and teach them as shepherds and teachers. If we love the Lord, we shall speak for Him as His witnesses. Furthermore, we need to preach the gospel, whether in season or out of season. This is not only the task of the leading evangelists, but of all the saints. Furthermore, we daily need to shepherd others and to teach them. The leading ones set the pattern for these functions, and we follow their example. Hence, **all the saints can do the work of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers**.

The saints need to be perfected unto the work of ministry. In the New Testament there is a unique ministry: the dispensing of Christ into others for the building up of the Body. In order to carry on the work of ministry, the saints need to be perfected.

The building up of the Body of Christ is not accomplished directly by the leading ones. The direct work of building is carried out by the saints who have been perfected. How different this is from the situation in today’s Christianity! **The proper way is for the leading ones to set up a pattern and then train the saints to do what they do.** After the saints have been perfected, the leading ones should step aside and allow the saints to do the direct work of building. Every leading one must learn when and how to step aside. Firstly, the leading ones must learn how to perfect others. **After this work of perfecting has been accomplished, the leading ones must leave the direct work of building in the hands of all the members of the Body.**

In verse 13 Paul did not say, “until you all arrive”; he said, “until we all arrive.” This indicates that Paul included himself with all the saints. It is not good for a few to arrive at the destination and to leave so many others behind. On the contrary, **we all should arrive together.** Arriving at the three things spoken of in verse 13 is **not a matter of a race**; it is **a matter of all arriving at the destination at the same time.**

I. Arriving at the Oneness—of the Faith and of the Full Knowledge of the Son of God

The oneness of the Spirit in verse 3 is the oneness of the divine life in reality, whereas the oneness in verse 13 is the oneness of our living in practicality. We already have the oneness of the divine life in reality. We only need to keep it. But we need to go on until we arrive at the oneness of our living in practicality. **This aspect of oneness is of two things: the faith and the full knowledge of the Son of God.** The *faith* does not refer to the act of our believing, but refers to **what we believe in**, such as the divine Person of Christ and His redemptive work for our salvation...

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:

<http://thechurchinregina.org/>

Hendrick Tan 306-216-0685

Joseph Miranda 306-737-3315

Nathan Zhang 306-529-5386

NEW LANGUAGE

**The Lord Jesus
tasted death
on behalf
of everything.**

The full knowledge of the Son of God is **the realization of the revelation concerning the Son of God for our experience**. The Son of God refers to the Lord's Person as life to us, whereas Christ refers to His commission to minister life to us that we, as members of His Body, may have gifts for function. **The more we grow in life, the more we shall cleave to the faith and to the realization of Christ and the more we shall drop all the concepts concerning minor doctrines which cause divisions**. Then we shall arrive at or attain to the practical oneness; that is to say, we shall arrive at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Many Christians do not know the difference between the oneness of the Spirit and the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God. The first is the oneness of reality, and the second is the oneness of practicality. Because the Spirit is the reality of our oneness, the oneness of the Spirit is the oneness of reality. **Oneness is nothing less than the Spirit Himself**. If there were no Spirit, then there would be no oneness. Although we have the oneness in reality, there is still the need for the oneness of practicality. This means that the oneness of reality must be practiced; that is, it must become the oneness in practice. Hence, in verse 13 Paul speaks of the oneness of practicality.

Between the oneness of reality and the oneness of practicality there is a distance. For this reason, there is the need to "arrive at" the oneness of practicality. The oneness of the Spirit is the beginning, whereas the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God is the destination. This indicates that we must journey from the oneness of the Spirit to the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God. In other words, we must travel from the oneness of reality until we arrive at the oneness of practicality.

As believers, we already have the oneness of reality. But we need to keep it. The best way to keep the oneness of reality is to go on, to proceed, toward the oneness of practicality...

II. Arriving at a Full-Grown Man

Verse 13 also says that we need to arrive at a full-grown man. **A full-grown man is a mature man**. Through regeneration the saints have become babes in Christ (1 Cor. 3:1). Now the saints need to **grow into maturity** (1 Cor. 3:6, Gk.; Heb. 6:1). Such maturity in life is needed for the practical oneness.

II. Arriving at the Measure of the Stature of the Fullness of Christ

According to verse 13, we also are to arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. **The fullness of Christ is the Body of Christ (1:23), which has a stature with a measure**. To arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ is also a necessity for the practical oneness. Hence, to go from the oneness of reality to the oneness of practicality we need to **press onward** until we arrive at the three things mentioned in this verse.

The fullness of Christ is simply the expression of Christ. As Christ's fullness, the Body is Christ's expression. Christ's fullness, the Body, has a stature, and with this stature there is a certain measure. Hence, verse 13 speaks of the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...To arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ is to arrive at the full building up of the Body of Christ. It is to arrive at the full completion of the building up of the Body.

We have seen that we need to arrive at the practical oneness, at the full growth, and at the complete building up of the Body. If we would arrive at these three things, we need to do the work of ministry. As verse 12 indicates, the work of ministry is equal to building up the Body of Christ. **Among us there is just one ministry**. Although thousands of us may participate in the work of ministry, the ministry itself is unique. This ministry is strictly for the building up of the Body of Christ. No matter who we may be, leaders or followers, we all are working to carry out the ministry in the New Testament economy to build up the Body of Christ. **We are not here to go on alone, but to go on with others, even to bring others on**. As we ourselves go on, we need to bring others on. We take others on by speaking for Christ, by teaching, and by shepherding...The Lord's way to do this is found in three crucial verses—in Ephesians 4:11-13. These verses reveal that all those who have been captured by the Lord have been presented to the Body as gifts for the perfecting of the saints, so that the work of ministry may be carried out and that the building up of the Body of Christ may be accomplished. Then we shall all arrive together at our destination—at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, and at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. This is our goal, and **we must diligently press toward it until we all reach it together** (*Life-Study of Ephesians, Msg. 43*).

Announcements:

1. Sisters' Meeting on July 4 at 2pm.
2. Summer Training starts on July 5. The schedule has been shared to all registrants by email.
3. Lord's Table Meeting Combined at AECC on July 11. Love feast to follow as restrictions will be lifted.

Prayer Burdens:

1. Thank you Lord for giving gifts to the Body. Perfect, equip, and supply us unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of Your Body. May we all have the view of the Body as we function in the church.
2. Keep perfecting us to function for the building up of the Your Body. Bring us all to our function that we all can preach, shepherd, teach and perfect one another.
3. Lord make us diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit. Cause us to go on until we arrive at the oneness of our living in practicality. May we never deviate from the faith and may we continue to grow in the full knowledge of the Son of God.
4. Lord, recover Your genuine building up of the body through the operation of the measure of each one part. Bring us all to our function as joints to supply the Body and as parts to operate according to our measure.
5. Thank You for placing us in the Body. Although we are many, we are simply members one of another. We want to exercise our gift of speaking and of caring for others so Your Body can be built up in love.
6. Lord continue to move in us. We exercise the gifts of the Spirit so you can carry out Your ministry to accomplish the operation of the Father for the fulfillment of Your eternal purpose.

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.
6. Pray for Bro. George Chua and his entire family. Touch him and heal him. May his sickness be Your way to reveal Yourself to him and grant him repentance and recovery.