

“WORD OF LIFE”

September 13, 2026

58. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (38)

U. IN THE CHURCH

5. The **Builder** of the Church

Suggested Hymns: # 203 & What Miracle! What Mystery / # 233 / # 12

✚ “... the **words** ... are **spirit** and are **life**,” (John 6:63)

Col. 1:18 - And He is the **Head** of the Body, the church;

Eph. 1:22 - And He **subjected** all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* **Head** over all things to the church,

1Cor. 12:12 - ... **all the members** of the body, being many, are **one body**, so also is **the Christ**.

Eph. 1:22-23 - ... the church, Which is His **Body**, the **fullness of the One** who fills all in all..

Col. 3:15 - ..., to which also you were **called** in one **Body**; and be thankful.

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

Eph. 4:24 - And **put on** the **new man**, which was created ...

Col. 3:11 - Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, ..., but **Christ is all and in all**.

Matt. 16:18 - And I also say to ... I will **build** My church, ...

Eph. 2:21 - In whom all the **building** (*universal church*), being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph. 2:22 - In whom you also are being **built** (*local church*) together into a **dwelling place** of God in spirit.

✚ “... the **excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**...,” (Phil. 3:8)

❖ The **Lord Jesus** is the **Head** of the church.

- The **headship** of Christ over all things is **to** His Body, the church (Eph. 1:22 – 23).
- He is the **Head** directly of every one of us.

❖ **Christ** is **not only** the Head **but also** the **Body**.

- All the members of the body, are one body, so also is **the Christ** (1 Cor. 12:12).
- “**The Christ**” is the corporate Christ, the **Body-Christ**.

❖ In the church **Christ** is every **member** of the **new man** (Col. 3:11).

- In the **new man** Christ **is** all and **in** all.
- He **is** all the **members** of the new man and **in** all the **members**.

❖ Christ is the **Builder** of the church (Matt. 16:18).

- “My church”, the church is of the Lord
 - In His humanity Christ is the **material** for God’s building,
 - in His divinity He is the **Builder**.
 - He **builds** the church with His person, through Himself as the **life-giving Spirit**.
 - He does **build** the church indirectly through all the **members** of His Body

✚ “For you can all **prophecy** one by one that all may **learn** and all may be **encouraged**.” (1Cor. 14:31)

✚ Growth and **building** are not separate things, for the growth of the Body is the building of the house. We should enjoy Him as the **Builder** of the church to take Him with all that He is, has, and accomplishes **through** the gifted persons and even **through** all His members.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 58 letter T- 5)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

Hymn 203 Praise the Lord— His Increase

- 1 In the bosom of the Father, [John 1:18]
Ere the ages had begun,
Thou wast in the Father's glory,
God's unique begotten Son. [John 3:16]
When to us the Father gave Thee,
Thou in person wast the same, [John 5:18; 10:30]
All the fulness of the Father
In the Spirit to proclaim.
- 2 By Thy death and resurrection, [Col. 1:18]
Thou wast made God's firstborn Son;
By Thy life to us imparting, [1 Cor. 15:45b]
Was Thy duplication done.
We, in Thee regenerated,
Many sons to God became; [Heb. 2:10]
Truly as Thy many brethren,
We are as Thyself the same.
- 3 Once Thou wast the only grain, Lord,
Falling to the earth to die, [John 12:24]
That thru death and resurrection
Thou in life may multiply.
We were brought forth in Thy nature
And the many grains became; [1 Cor. 10:17]
As one loaf we all are blended, [1 Cor. 12:24]
All Thy fulness to proclaim.
- 4 We're Thy total reproduction,
Thy dear Body and Thy Bride, [Eph. 1:22-23]
Thine expression and Thy fulness,
For Thee ever to abide. [Eph. 5:25-27]
We are Thy continuation,
Thy life-increase and Thy spread,
Thy full growth and Thy rich surplus,
One with Thee, our glorious Head.

Eph. 2:21-22 –

In whom all the building [universal church] being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
In whom you also are being built [local church] together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Eph. 4:3-6 –

Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

The oneness of the Spirit is the Spirit Himself.

To keep the oneness of the Spirit is to keep the life-giving Spirit. If we act apart from the Spirit, we are divisive and lose the oneness. If we stay in the life-giving Spirit, we keep the oneness of the Spirit.

To walk worthily of God's calling, to have the proper Body life, we first need to care for the oneness. Oneness is the one entity of the Spirit within the us, which makes us all one. This oneness is a person, Christ Himself, who is the Spirit dwelling within us.

[Hymn: What Miracle! What Mystery—As life]

Hymn 233 Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

- 1 O what a miracle, my Lord,
That I'm in Thee and Thou in me,
That Thou and I are really one; [John 14:20]
O what a wondrous mystery! [1 Cor. 6:17]
- 2 For me Thy body Thou didst give,
That I may ever share in Thee;
For me Thy precious blood was shed,
That from my sins I might be free. [Matt 26:26-28]
- 3 By resurrection Thou didst change
Thy form and as the Spirit come;
Thou wouldst that I be filled with Thee
That all Thy riches mine become. [1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 8:9; Eph 1:7; 2:7]
- 4 Now as the symbols we behold,
Thy loving self we see anew;
We thank Thee for Thy heart's desire
As all Thy travail we review. [1 Cor. 11:23 – 25]
- 5 We eat the bread and drink the wine,
And to Thy sweetness we are led;
In spirit each receiving Thee, [John 6:56, 63]
Our spirits with Thyself are fed.
- 6 We long to eat and drink e'en more,
To take Thyself in spirit thus, [Eph. 3:19]
Till Thou shalt all our being fill [Eph. 5:18]
And true remembrance have from us.

John 12:32 –

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.

John 14:20 –

In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 15:4 –

Abide in Me and I in you...

John 17:21 –

That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; ...

The Lord's intention is to bring us into God for the building of His dwelling place. But between man and God there were many obstacles, such as sin, sins, death, the world, the flesh, the self, the old man, and Satan.

For the Lord to bring us into God, He had to solve all these problems. First, He came through incarnation to bring God into man, then went through death and resurrection to bring man into God for the building of God's habitation, which is the building of the church.

Therefore, He had to go to the cross (be lifted up) to accomplish redemption that He might open the way and make a standing for us, that we might enter into God.

This standing in God, being enlarged, becomes the standing in the Body of Christ, which is God's dwelling place.

Hymn 12 Worship of the Father – As the Source of Life

- 1 O God, Thou art the source of life,
Divine, and rich and free!
As living water flowing out
Unto eternity! (Psa. 36:9; John 4:14)
- 2 In love Thou in the Son didst flow
Among the human race; (1 John 5:11-12)
Thou dost as Spirit also flow (John 7:38-39)
Within us thru Thy grace. (John 1:14-16)
- 3 Though we in sin and wickedness
Went far from Thee apace, (Titus 2:14)
Yet in the Son Thou didst redeem,
Bestowing life and grace. (Rom. 5:17, 21)
- 4 Though we have often slighted Thee,
Thy Spirit often grieved, (Eph. 4:30)
Yet Thou dost still as Spirit come
As life to be received. (John 14:17-18)
- 5 Thou as the Spirit in the Son
Hast mingled heretofore; (John 14:20)
Thou wilt thru fellowship anoint
And increase more and more. (2 Cor. 1:21)
(1 John 2:20)
- 6 The love of God, the grace of Christ,
The Spirit's flowing free, (2 Cor. 13:14)
Enable us God's wealth to share
Thru all eternity. (Eph. 1:11-14 inheritance)
- 7 The Father, Son, and Spirit—one,
So richly care for us; (Matt. 6:8, 32-33)
Thy love with one accord we sing
And e'er would praise Thee thus.
(Rom. 15:6 – one accord, one mouth glorifying God)
(Eph. 5:19 – singing with our heart)
(Col. 3:16 – word of Christ dwell – richly)

1 John 5:11 –

And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 –

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

In the Son, the Father is expressed and seen, and as the Spirit, the Son is revealed and realized.

The Father in the Son is expressed among us, and the Son as the Spirit is realized in us.

God the Father is hidden,
God the Son is manifested among us, and
God the Spirit enters into us to be our life,
our life supply, and our everything.

Hence, this Triune God—the Father in the Son and the Son as the Spirit—dispenses Himself into us to be our portion that we may enjoy Him as our everything in His divine trinity.