

Message Two

The Constitution of the New Man

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15; Col. 1:18; 2:17; 3:4, 10-11

I. God's intention in His economy is that Christ be everything; in the eyes of God nothing counts except Christ—Matt. 17:5; Col. 1:18; 2:2, 17; 3:4, 10-11:

- A. God's intention is to make Christ His Son the center of His economy and also to make Him everything to the believers—1:18; 2:17.
- B. The Lord is seeking to recover the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit, who imparts Himself into the believers as their life and their everything and makes them His living Body, the one new man—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Tim. 4:22a; Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 2:15.

II. The new man has the believers as its constituents, who are Christ and in whom is Christ—Col. 3:10-11:

- A. The believers are all one with Christ to be the parts, the components, of the corporate one new man—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a:
 - 1. Since the believers have the divine element, they become a new entity; the totality of this new entity is the new man.
 - 2. The believers as the constituents of the new man are the mingling of God and man, having two lives, human and divine, living together as one life.
- B. In the new man, we are Christ, and Christ is in us—Col. 3:11; Phil. 1:19-21a:
 - 1. The new man is Christ in all the saints, permeating us and replacing us until all natural distinctions have been removed and everyone is constituted with Christ.
 - 2. The all-inclusive Christ must be wrought into us organically until He replaces our natural being with Himself—Eph. 3:17a; Gal. 4:19.
 - 3. When we take Christ as our life and person and live together with Him, we shall have the sense deep within that we are one with Christ and that Christ is us; however, simultaneously we shall also sense that Christ is in us.
- C. In the new man Christ is all and in all—Col. 3:10-11:
 - 1. In the new man Christ is all; in fact, Christ is the new man, His Body—1 Cor. 12:12.
 - 2. In the new man Christ is the centrality and universality:
 - a. There is no natural person in the one new man, and there is no possibility, no room, for any natural person—Col. 3:11.
 - b. Although many different kinds of people make up the one new man, all are part of Christ.
 - c. In the one new man there is only one person—the all-inclusive Christ—2:17; 3:4, 11.

- d. The one new man is just Christ—Christ spreading and Christ enlarged.
3. Because Christ is all the members of the new man, there is no room in the new man for any race, nationality, culture, or social status—v. 11.

III. The new man is the corporate Christ—1 Cor. 12:12:

- A. Christ Himself is an individual Christ, but the church as the new man is the corporate Christ, Christ enlarged and spread:
 1. The four Gospels reveal a wonderful person—the individual Christ, who is all-inclusive, having many aspects—Matt. 1:16; 16:16.
 2. Acts shows us the spreading, the increase, and the enlargement of this wonderful person becoming the corporate Christ.
 3. The Epistles explain to us how the individual Christ can become the corporate Christ—Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 4. Revelation shows us that the ultimate issue of the new man, the corporate man, will be the New Jerusalem in eternity future as God's full and eternal expression—21:2; 22:17a.
- B. The corporate Christ is in all the constituents, the members, of the new man:
 1. The new man as the totality of the God-men becomes the corporate Christ.
 2. The God-men constitute the new man, and the new man is the corporate Christ.