

Message Four

The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity in Building Up the Church as the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4

- I. **Ephesians 4:1-6 reveals the divine dispensing and mingling of the Triune God with the Body of Christ:**
 - A. **We** need to be mingled with God to realize the oneness of the Body—vv. 4-6:
 1. The mingling of God with man and the oneness of the Body of Christ are the central matter in the Bible and in our Christian life—Lev. 2:4-5.
 2. The extent to which the Lord values us depends on how much of the divine mingling we have and how much we are in the oneness of the Body.
 3. The intrinsic content of the Body of Christ is the Spirit of life; Christ as the Spirit is our oneness, and the law of the Spirit of life is the life-law of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:3-4; Rom. 8:2; Col. 2:19.
 - B. The oneness of the Body of Christ is the dispensing of the Divine Trinity (the Father as the Originator and source of the Body, the Son as the Creator and element of the Body, and the Spirit as the Executor and essence of the Body) into our human trinity (spirit and soul and body)—Eph. 2:10, 15; 4:4-6; 1 Thes.5:23; cf. Gen. 1:26; 2:9.
 - C. The Spirit's mingling with the Body of Christ is the dispensing of the Divine Trinity—"One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling"-Eph. 4:4.
 - D. The Son's (the Lord's) mingling with the Body of Christ is the dispensing of the Divine Trinity—"One Lord, one faith, one baptism"-4:5.
 - E. The one God and Father's mingling with the Body of Christ is the dispensing of the Divine Trinity - "One God **and** Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"-Eph. 4:6.
 - F. Psalm 133 is equivalent to Ephesians 4; in order for **us** to receive the anointing and dispensing Spirit, we must submit to the Head and live in the Body by being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit:
 1. The genuine oneness is constituted with the spreading ointment of the Spirit, the descending dew of the Son, and the commanded-life-blessing of the Father for the gradual building up of Christ's Body in the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—Psa. 133:1-3; cf. Eph. 4:4-6.
 2. The ground of oneness is simply the processed Triune God applied to our being; the anointing of the compound, all-inclusive life-giving Spirit is the element of our oneness—vv. 3-4; cf. John 4:24; Exo. 30:22-25; I John 2:20, 27.
 3. The descending dew signifies the descending, refreshing, watering, saturating, and blessing grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7, 9b), the Triune God as our life supply for our enjoyment (2 Cor. 13:14).
 4. In the church **life** we are daily anointed and graced; the anointing of the Spirit and the supply of grace make it possible for us to live in oneness—Eph. 1:13, 6.
 5. The more we experience Christ as the life-giving Spirit, the more our natural constitution and disposition are reduced; as they are reduced through our experience of the Triune God with **His** divine attributes, we are perfected into one—John 17:23; Eph. 4:1-3.
- II. **Ephesians 4:7-16 reveals that the divine dispensing and mingling of the Triune God with the Body of Christ are for the organic building up of the church by the functioning of the gifts and the growth and building up of the Body:**

- A. The building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the giving, the dispensing, of the divine grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ—v. 7.
 - B. The building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the giving of the gifted persons (the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers) to the Body of Christ; these gifts are constituted in the dispensing of the Divine Trinity by Christ as the Head in His ascension (including His resurrection), and they perfect the saints in the local
 - C. The building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the gifted persons' perfecting of the saints in the divine dispensing so that all the saints may be able to do the work of the ministry, that is, to build up the organic Body of Christ— Eph. 4:11-12.
 - D. The joints supplying and the different parts functioning cause the growth of the Body, in the dispensing of the Divine Trinity, unto the building up of the Body itself in love.
- III. In Ephesians 4:17-32 there are three verses that reveal the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in the believers' corporate God-man living as the reality of the Body of Christ for the building up of the church; these verses speak of the Father's life (v. 18), the Son's living (v. 21), and the Spirit's sealing (v. 30):
- A. Verse 18 speaks of the life of God for supplying His children with His divine riches in His divine dispensing.
 - B. Verse 21 speaks of learning Christ as "the reality is in Jesus" for infusing His believers with His God-man living in His divine dispensing.
 - C. Verse 30 speaks of the sealing of the Holy Spirit for saturating the members of Christ with the divine element in His divine dispensing.
 - D. The life of God, the reality that is in Jesus, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit are the three sources of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity for the building up of the Body of Christ:
 - 1. The Father's life must become the reality in our daily living, the reality that is in Jesus; this reality, as the practicality of the life of the Father, becomes the sealing ink, which is the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. While the sealing ink seals us, it saturates, permeates, and soaks us with the divine life in the practicality of Jesus' daily life, making us a "Xerox" copy of Jesus' life, which is the practicality of the Father's life; this results in the glorious expression of the Triune God in and through the church.
- IV. Ephesians 4:17-24 reveals the basic principles of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in the believers' corporate God-man living as the reality of the Body of Christ:
- A. We must not walk as the Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind—v. 17.
 - B. We must not be alienated from the life of God—v. 18.
 - C. We must not cease from caring for the feeling of our conscience—v. 19; Acts 24:16.
 - D. We must learn Christ in the divine dispensing as the truth (reality versus vanity) that is in Jesus; the reality of the Body of Christ is the reality that is in Jesus, the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, duplicated in His many members as the corporate living of the perfected God-men— Eph. 4:20-21; cf. vv. 15, 24-25; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a.
- V. Ephesians 4:25-32 reveals the organic details of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in the believers' corporate God-man living as the reality of the Body of Christ.