

Message Three

Living the Body Life in the Inward Parts of Christ Jesus

Scripture Reading: Philem. 7, 12, 20; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:25-26

I. In the book of Philemon, we have a picture of the church life lived in the inward parts of Christ Jesus—vv. 7, 12, 20:

- A. The inward parts signify inward affection, tenderheartedness, and compassions—Phil. 1:8; 2:1; Col. 3:12.
- B. Paul's inward affection and compassions went with Onesimus to Philemon—Philem. 12.
- C. All the spiritual and divinely good things in us are unto Christ, toward Christ, and for Christ—v. 6:
 - 1. "Every good thing which is in you" refers not to natural things but to spiritual and divinely good things, such as our love and faith toward the Lord Jesus.
 - 2. Paul prayed that the fellowship, the communication, the sharing of Philemon's faith toward all the saints might become effective in them in the element and sphere of the full realization of all the good things in us for Christ, causing them to acknowledge, appreciate, and recognize all the spiritual and divinely good things that are in the believers for Christ.

II. Since we are members of the Body of Christ, we need to have the consciousness of the Body and have a feeling for the Body—1 Cor. 12:25-26; Rom. 12:15:

- A. In order for us to live the Body life, we need to care for our fellow members and be full of feeling for the Body.
- B. The Christ we enjoy is the Head of the Body; thus, the more we enjoy Him, the more we become conscious of the Body—Col. 2:9-10, 16-17, 19.
- C. Paul took the inward parts of Christ Jesus as his own inward parts in caring for the church—Phil. 1:8:
 - 1. Paul took care of the Body of Christ by taking Christ's feeling for the Body as his own feeling for the Body.
 - 2. Like Paul, we should take the feeling of the Head as our own feeling; this is most necessary for our living the Body life—Phil. 1:8.
- D. The feeling for the Body of Christ is closely related to one's frame of mind, that is, to one's perception of things—Col. 2:18; 3:2; Rom. 12:2-3; Eph. 4:23.
- E. If we as members have the feeling of the Head in everything and care for the Body, we will take the Body as the rule in our mind, thoughts, words, and actions—1 Cor. 12:12-27; 2 Cor. 8:21; Col. 3:15.
 - 1. Because whatever we do involves the Body, in all that we do, we should deny ourselves and care for the Body—Matt. 16:24.
 - 2. If we do this, there will be no separation or disconnection from the Body; the life we live will fully be the Body life; and the Lord will gain the expression of His Body.