

Message Four

Living a Life of Fellowship in the Mingled Spirit

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:9, 10:16-17; Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3

I. God has called us into the fellowship of His Son so that we may partake of the all-inclusive Christ, participate in Him, and enjoy Him as our God-given portion—1 Cor. 1:9:

- A. Christ Himself is the fellowship into which God has called us; the fellowship of the all-inclusive Christ as our portion is nothing less than the living person of the all-inclusive Christ—v. 2.
- B. The fellowship of Christ is actually carried on by the Spirit; thus, in our experience the fellowship of the Son is the fellowship of the Spirit—2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1.
- C. Fellowship means that we and Christ have become one—6:17:
 - 1. In our experience, being one spirit with the Lord follows being called by God into the fellowship of His Son—1:9; 6:17.
 - 2. We have been called into a oneness where we are one with Him and He is one with us.
 - 3. The word *joined* in 6:17 is a synonym for *fellowship* in 1:9; the joining is actually the fellowship.
 - 4. Whenever we are one spirit with the Lord, we are in the fellowship of Christ, and we experience Him as the all-inclusive One.
- D. Fellowship means that we enjoy Christ and all He is and that He enjoys us and all we are—Phil. 1:18; 2:17-18, 28; 3:1; 4:4, 10.
- E. The fellowship of Christ becomes the fellowship the apostles shared with the believers in Christ in His Body, the church; such a fellowship must be unique because He is unique; it forbids any division among the members of His unique Body—Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3; 1 Cor. 12:27
- F. This fellowship involves not only the oneness between us and the Triune God but also the oneness among all the believers—John 17:21-23; Eph. 4:3.

II. The fellowship in the mingled spirit is both vertical and horizontal—1 John 1:3-4, 7; 2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1:

- A. The divine Spirit is for vertical fellowship—1 John 1:3
- B. The human spirit is for horizontal fellowship—vv. 3, 7.

III. Fellowship implies a mutual flowing among the believers—1 John 1:3:

- A. In the New Testament fellowship describes the flowing both between us and the Lord and between us and one another—Phil. 2:1.
- B. The flow, the current, we have in our spiritual fellowship involves both oneness and life; our fellowship is a flow of oneness.
- C. This fellowship is the reality of the church life—1 Cor. 1:9, 2.
- D. The divine stream, the unique flow, is a stream of fellowship—Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3; 1 Cor. 10:16:
- E. The fellowship of the Body of Christ is the stream of the divine life; wherever this stream flows, there is the fellowship of the Body of Christ—Rev. 22:1.

IV. The divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ—1 John 1:3:

- A. All the local churches are one Body, and within this Body there is the circulation of the divine life—1 Cor. 1:2; 4:17; 7:17; 11:16; 14:33; 16:1; 12:27; Eph. 4:4:
- B. The circulation of the divine life in the Body brings all the members of the Body into oneness.
- C. There is only one circulation, one fellowship, of life in the Body:
 - 1. This circulation is the fellowship of the Body of Christ.
 - 2. All the local churches should remain in this unique fellowship—the fellowship of the Body.