

Message Four

**Enjoying Christ as Everything
in the Church as the Corporate Christ, the Body-Christ**

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:2, 9, 24, 30; 5:8; 10:3-4, 17; 12:12-13; 15:45b

- I. We should treasure the revelation of the all-inclusive Christ in 1 Corinthians—1:2, 9, 24, 30; 2:7-8, 10; 3:11; 5:7-8; 10:3-4; 11:3; 12:12; 15:20, 23, 45b, 47.**
- II. The enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ brings forth the proper church and preserves us in oneness; the oneness in the enjoyment of Christ as our portion is the church life—1:2, 9, 13a.**
- III. In the church we all need to eat the same spiritual food and drink the same spiritual drink—10:3-4:**
 - A. The spiritual food in 1 Corinthians 10:3 refers to manna, which typifies Christ as our daily life supply for the Christian journey—Exo. 16:14-16; John 6:31-35:
 1. We believers should all eat the same spiritual food, not eating anything other than Christ—1 Cor. 10:3; John 6:57b.
 2. Christ should be our unique food, and we should not seek to live on any other food—vv. 54-55.
 3. The Christ who is our spiritual food is the Christ who becomes subjective to us—Gal. 2:20; 4:19.
 - B. The spiritual drink in 1 Corinthians 10:4 refers to the living water that flowed out of the cleft rock; this water typifies the Spirit as our all-inclusive drink—Exo. 17:6; John 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 12:13:
 1. In Exodus 17:6 the rock is a type of Christ, Moses signifies the law, the staff represents the power and authority of the law, the smiting of the rock signifies that Christ was smitten by the authority of God's law, and the water flowing out of the smitten rock typifies the Spirit—John 7:37-39; 19:34.
 2. The spiritual drink, the living water, is the water of life in resurrection; when we drink the water of life in resurrection, we become persons in resurrection and of resurrection—1 Cor. 10:4; John 14:20; 2 Cor. 1:9; 4:14.
 3. By our eating and drinking of Christ, God works Himself into us, for by eating and drinking we take the Lord in, and He becomes one with us organically to be our life and constituent—1 Cor. 10:3-4; Col. 3:4, 10-11.
- IV. The enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ revealed in 1 Corinthians issues in the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ—12:12-13:**
 - A. Christ is a complete person, both the Head and the Body—Col. 1:18; 2:19:
 1. Since Christ is both the Head and the Body, He is the Body-Christ.
 2. For Christ to be the Body-Christ means that He is no longer only the individual Christ; He is also the corporate Christ—1 Cor. 12:12; Acts 9:4-5:
 - a. Christ has an individual aspect and a corporate aspect—Matt. 16:18.
 - b. Individually He is Christ, and corporately He is the Body-Christ.
 - B. The highest enjoyment of Christ is the enjoyment of the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ; to enjoy Christ as the Body-Christ is not merely to enjoy Him in one aspect but to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ in His fullness—Col. 2:9.
 - C. First Corinthians 12:12 says, "Even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ":

1. *The Christ* is not the individual Christ but the corporate Christ, Christ incorporated with all His members.
 2. The corporate Christ is composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church with all the believers as His Body—11:3; 12:12, 27.
- D. As indicated by the word *for*, 1 Corinthians 12:13 is the continuation, definition, and explanation of verse 12:
1. All the members are one Body, and this Body is Christ, because in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body—vv. 13-14, 24, 27.
 2. We, as the many members of the Body of Christ, are one because we have been baptized in the Spirit—v. 13:
 - a. The Spirit in whom we have been baptized is Christ, who became the life-giving Spirit—15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17.
 - b. We have all been positioned in the Body to drink of the one Spirit, the life-giving Spirit, who is Christ; now, since we are in the Body, we need to drink this one Spirit, who is Christ Himself—1 Cor. 12:13.
 - c. Eventually, we are filled, flooded, saturated, and permeated by the Spirit; therefore, we are one with one another and with Christ as one Body, which is Christ Himself—6:17; 12:12.
 - d. The Spirit, who is Christ Himself, becomes the Body-Christ—2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 12:12-13.
 - e. In the church we have the position to drink the Body-Christ, the Christ who is the life-giving Spirit in the Body—v. 13; 15:45b.
- E. The bread on the Lord's table signifies Christ's body in two aspects—10:17:
1. First, it signifies the physical body of Jesus; He was pierced, crucified on the cross, and shed His blood for us—Matt. 26:26.
 2. Second, the bread signifies the mystical Body of Christ; the mystical Body of Christ is the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ—1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 1:23.
 3. When we partake of the bread at the Lord's table, we are eating not only the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ; we enjoy the mystical Body of Christ, and we participate in the Body-Christ—1 Cor. 10:17.
- F. By enjoying the all-inclusive Christ in the church as the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ, we enjoy a meal-offering church life—Lev. 2:1; Acts 2:46:
1. By eating Christ as our meal offering, we become the reproduction, duplication, and enlargement of Christ as the meal offering—an offering composed of humanity oiled with divinity in resurrection through Christ's death and without leaven and honey—Lev. 2:2, 4-5, 11, 13; John 6:57.
 2. The flour meal offering signifies both the individual Christ and the individual Christian; the cake meal offering signifies the corporate Christ, Christ with His Body, the church—Lev. 2:2, 4; 1 Cor. 12:12; 10:17.
 3. In order to be blended in the Body life, the meal-offering church life, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit, dispensing Christ to others for the sake of the Body of Christ—12:24, 27; 1:18; 2:2; 12:13.
 4. God desires that every local church be a meal offering to satisfy Him and fully supply the saints day by day; this means that we will eat our church life, for the church life will be our daily supply—5:8; Acts 2:46.