

**A New Hymn:
The Reality of the Body of Christ**

A literal translation:

1. The highest point, the high peak, of the divine economy:
The reality of the Body of Christ,
Divinity and humanity united and mingled,
Man and God incorporated as one;
The Spirit of reality makes home in man's heart;
Man dwells in the mingled spirit;
God and man have one life and one living,
Constituting a universal entity.

2. The Body of Christ [in its] practical meaning:
The corporate God-man living;
Throughout Jesus' life [He] walked according to God,
Denying the self, having no self, in all things;
The whole life of this God-man pleased the Father;
All the saints ought to learn [or, imitate] Him;
The actual condition of [the life of] the Son of Man on earth
Is now lived again in all the members.

3. The God-man living [in] practical experience [is]
To live and die together with the Lord;
If you bear in your body the death of Jesus,
[His] life will surely be manifested;
If the cross enters into your heart,
Wounding the depth of the soul,
The resurrection power will spontaneously operate,
Causing you to magnify Christ.

4. The corporate Christ, the Head and the Body,
Are both Christ Himself;
The churches are many, but the Body is only one,
The Spirit dwelling within [everyone's] heart as one;
The natural life, the flesh, and the old man
Are all cleared up by the cross;
The fellowship of the Body restricts and limits,
Keeps the peace and the oneness.

5. The bountiful Spirit of Jesus Christ
Is the supply of the Body;
Brethren dwelling together, members relying on one another,
Displaying the condition of building;
Seeing the Body, treasuring the Body, abandoning individualism thoroughly;
Joined with one another, functioning within measure,
The Body increasing, growing, and prospering.

6. God and man mingled, living out Christ,
Expressing the reality of the Body;
For this I am willing to be the Lord's captive
Because of [His] love, enjoying Him to the uttermost;
The law of life, the divine capacity,
Has been installed in me;
Every moment receiving Your dispensing,
Being an open vessel of the Lord.

7. Open the eyes of my heart, grant me the revelation,
To know the Body clearly;
Urge me to watch, press me to pray,
To follow the Spirit and live out Yourself;
May I be eliminated, forsake self-interest,
Treasure Your heart's desire;
Let me consecrate and pursue diligently
The reality of the Body of Christ.

Message Five

Living Christ for the Reality of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:8-14; Eph. 3:1; 4:1, 11-12, 16; 6:18, 20; Rom. 8:2, 29

- I. The church as the Body of Christ is a pure product out of Christ; only that which comes out of Christ with His resurrection life can be His complement and counterpart, the Body of Christ—Gen. 2:22-23; Eph. 5:28-30:**
 - A. The Head of the Body is Christ, and the Body of the Head is Christ, so the Body of Christ with Christ as the Head is “the Christ,” the corporate Christ—Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:12; Col. 3:10-11.
 - B. Anything other than Christ is not the Body of Christ, and anything other than Christ is a foreign element in the Body of Christ; thus, we must be desperate as Paul was to live Christ for the reality of the Body—Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:8-14.
 - C. All things other than the pure element of Christ are ruled out by this vision; this vision “paralyzes” us from exercising anything of our natural man—v. 3.
- II. To live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ is to be imprisoned in our spirit as a “prisoner of Christ Jesus,” a “prisoner in the Lord,” and an “ambassador in a chain”—Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20; 2 Cor. 5:20, cf. vv. 4, 9, 14, 16:**
 - A. When we are imprisoned in Christ, we receive a revelation of Him to experience Him in His unlimited dimensions as the church-loving Christ, the new-man-creating Christ, the all-things-heading-up Christ, the gift-making and gift-giving Christ, and the home-making Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 3:18; 5:25-27; 2:15-16; 1:20-23; 4:7-8, 11-12; 3:17a.
 - B. A person who lives Christ as an ambassador of Christ no longer has his own freedom and can no longer do things according to his own convenience; where he goes and what he does are not according to his choice but are under and according to the leading and directing hand of God—Ezek. 1:1-3; John 7:6, 8.
 - C. To live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ is to be a captive of Christ in His triumphal procession, doing everything in the person of Christ in our spirit for the celebration of His victory in the work of the ministry to speak in Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ—2 Cor. 2:13-17.
- III. The Body of Christ is the issue of the experience of Christ, so we need to pray desperately that we would live Christ for the Body of Christ to be a reality; the secret of how to live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ is in Romans 8, which is a definition, description, explanation, and presentation of the law of the Spirit of life—v. 2:**
 - A. Romans 8 uses this term—*the law of the Spirit of life*—to describe how the Triune God, after having been processed and consummated to become the life-giving Spirit, has been installed into our spirit as a law, a spontaneous, automatic principle and power within us; this is one of the biggest discoveries, even recoveries, in God’s economy—vv. 2-3, 11, 16.
 - B. We need to cooperate with the installed and operating law of the Spirit of life by “switching on” the spontaneous and automatic power of the installed and automatic God, the indwelling Spirit as the “current” of the Triune God; to “switch

on” this law is to remain in touch with the Lord, to stay in constant contact with Him, to have habitual fellowship with Him, and to be under His constant infusion by walking according to the spirit—Eph. 6:18:

1. To behave, act, move, and live in the mingled spirit, which is the law of the Spirit of life mingled with our spirit, is to behave, act, move, and live in the Body of Christ—Phil. 2:13.
2. In our spirit we have the presence of God, the speaking of God, the meeting with God, and the dispensing of God through His operation as the law of the Spirit of life to impart Himself into all our inward parts—Heb. 8:10.
3. To walk according to the spirit is to pray at every time in spirit—Eph. 6:18:
 - a. Our unceasing, continual, living, and breathing prayer should be “Lord, live through me”—1 Thes. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; *Hymns*, #403.
 - b. According to the revelation of Ephesians, we have to be persons who pray unceasingly in order to have the reality of the Body life; we must be watchful, fully awakened, fighting against our sleeping nature and our sleeping being, not just physically but also psychologically and spiritually—5:14; 6:17b-18; Col. 4:2.
 - c. We need to exercise our spirit to rise up over our body and our psychology, taking heed to the Lord’s word to watch and pray, praying at every time in spirit and being watchful, on the alert, for the maintaining of our prayer life—Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18.
 - d. We must build up the habit of living Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ by building up the habit of prayer, the habit of breathing in the pneumatic Christ unceasingly by calling on Him and conversing with Him—Lam. 3:55-56; Psa. 102, title; *Hymns*, #255.
4. We can live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ according to the law of the Spirit of life by being filled with the Spirit and by letting Christ’s word dwell in us richly—Eph. 5:18-20; Col. 3:16-17.
5. We can live Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ according to the law of the Spirit of life by being empty and open vessels—Matt. 5:3; Luke 1:53; 2 Kings 4:1-6:
 - a. Paul’s fourteen Epistles may be summarized by two words: *open vessel*—Rom. 9:21, 23; 2 Cor. 4:7.
 - b. We need to love the Lord to the uttermost, keeping ourselves entirely, thoroughly, and absolutely open to Him, allowing Him to be everything to us and do everything in us, through us, and for us for the sake of His Body—1 Cor. 1:9; 2:9; cf. 16:22.
- C. The operating of the law of the Spirit of life as the divine capacity within us spontaneously causes us to live God and become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead—Ezek. 36:27; Rom. 8:2, 29; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19-21.
- D. The operating of the law of the Spirit of life as the divine capacity within us spontaneously constitutes us to be the members of the Body of Christ with all kinds of functions so that all the Body causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love—4:11-12, 16.