

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE ECONOMY OF GOD, THE BODY OF CHRIST,
AND THE CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE**

Message One

The Body

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:1-6, 16, 20-24; Matt. 28:20b

- I. The highest peak in God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ—Eph. 3:9; 4:4-6, 16:**
 - A. God's aim in His economy is for us, His chosen and redeemed people, to have His life and nature inwardly and His image and likeness outwardly—Gen. 1:26; 2:9.
 - B. God is working Himself into us to make us the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11, 29.
 - C. Eventually, we will become a corporate entity—the Body of Christ—to be one with Him and to live Him for His corporate expression—Eph. 4:4-6.
 - D. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate, Christ-magnifying, God-man living; this reality will close this age, the age of the church, and will bring Christ back for Him to take, possess, and rule over this earth in the kingdom age—Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:10-14; Gal. 2:20; Rev. 19:7-9; 20:6; Matt. 28:20b.
- II. The Body of Christ is the intrinsic significance of the church—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13, 27.**
 - A. The church of God is the frame, and the Body of Christ is the organism—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1, 4-5.
 - B. The Body of Christ is expressed as local churches—Rev. 1:11.
- III. The Body of Christ is a divine constitution of the Triune God with the believers in Christ—Eph. 4:4-6:**
 - A. The Father, the Son, the Spirit, and man are blended and built together to become the Body of Christ.
 - B. The Body of Christ is an organism, both divine and human, to express Christ—1:23.
- IV. The genuine oneness of the Body of Christ is a crucial point of the Lord's recovery in this consummating age—Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:12:**
 - A. The Body of Christ, being organic, is undivided and indivisible, as Christ is—1 Cor. 1:13a.
 - B. The oneness of the Body in reality is the oneness of the one Spirit as the essence, of the one Lord as the element, and of the one Father as the source—Eph. 4:3-6.
 - C. All the local churches need to be kept in the oneness of the Body of Christ.
- V. We need to be diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit as the reality of the Body of Christ, with the transformed human virtues strengthened by and with the divine attributes so that the Lord will have a way to accomplish His divine purpose according to His divine economy—Eph. 4:1-4:**

- A. In order to live in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to experience Christ in His humanity as our lowliness and meekness—v. 2.
- B. In order to live in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to experience Christ in His humanity as our long-suffering with joy and for bearing one another in love—v. 2.

VI. John 6:57 reveals how the reality that is in Jesus, the God-man living of Jesus, can become the reality of the Body of Christ, the corporate God-man living of the new man as the duplication of the God-man living of Jesus—Eph. 4:20-24:

- A. John 6:57a says, “As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father”; this is the reality that is in Jesus, the God-man living of Jesus.
- B. John 6:57b says, “So he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me”; this is the reality of the Body of Christ, the corporate God-man living of the many members of the Body of Christ, who are learning Christ, living because of Christ, as the reality is in Jesus—Eph. 4:21.