

Message Two

**The Direction of the Lord's Move**

(1)

**To Build Up the Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:12, 16; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-13

- I. The direction of the Lord's move today is to build up the organic Body of Christ as the organism of the processed and dispensing God in His Divine Trinity for His full expression—Eph. 3:19; 4:12, 16; John 15:1, 5.**
- II. 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 dominion 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; eventually, we will become a corporate entity—the Body of Christ—to be one with Him and to live Him for His corporate expression—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11, 29; Eph. 4:4-6.
  - C. 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.
- III. The Body of Christ is the intrinsic significance of the church—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13, 27; Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1, 4-5:**
  - A. The church of God is the frame, and the Body of Christ is the organism—Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13, 27.
  - B. The Body of Christ is expressed as local churches—Rev. 1:11.
- IV. 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.
- V. 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.

**VI. The growth of the Body is the building up of the Body—4:16; Col. 2:19:**

- A. The growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the addition of God, the increase of God, within us—v. 19.
- B. The growth of the Body of Christ is the increase of Christ in the church, which results in the building up of the Body by the Body itself in love—Eph. 3:17a; 4:16:
  - 1. When Christ enters into the saints and lives within them, the Christ within the saints becomes the church—Col. 3:10-11.
  - 2. The Body of Christ grows by the growth of Christ within us and is built up this way—1:18; 2:19:
    - a. To grow up into Christ is to have Christ increase in us until we attain to a full-grown man—Eph. 4:13, 15.
    - b. First, we grow up into the Head; then we have something that is out from the Head for the building up of the Body—vv. 15-16.
  - 3. The love in which the Body builds itself up is not our own love but the love of God in Christ, which becomes the love of Christ in us, by which we love Christ and the fellow members of His Body—1 John 4:7-8, 11, 16, 19; Rom. 5:5; 8:39.