

Message Four

The Issue of the Second Step of Reconciliation

(2)

**Living to the Lord, Being Enlarged in Heart,
and Becoming the Sanctuary of God, the Enlarged Holy of Holies**

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 5:20, 14-15; 6:11-13; S. S. 6:4; John 14:2, 20, 23

I. Christ died for our sins so that we may be forgiven, and He died for us so that we may live to Him—1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:14-15:

- A. Christ's death not only saves us from death so that we do not need to die, but also causes us, through His resurrection, to live no longer to ourselves but to Him:
 - 1. To live to ourselves means that we are under our own control and direction and that we care for our own aims and goals.
 - 2. To live to the Lord means that we are under the Lord's control and direction and that we want to satisfy Him and fulfill His purpose.
- B. Living to the Lord is deeper in significance than living for the Lord—Rom. 14:7-8:
 - 1. Living for the Lord implies that I and the Lord are still two.
 - 2. Living to the Lord indicates that I am one with the Lord, as the wife is one with the husband in married life.
- C. Living to the Lord in 2 Corinthians 5 is equal to walking according to the spirit in Romans 8.

II. To be fully reconciled to God will cause us to be enlarged in our hearts—2 Cor. 5:20; 6:11-13:

- A. How large our heart is depends on the degree of our reconciliation to God.
- B. Narrowness of heart is a strong indication that we have been reconciled to God only partially and that the percentage of our salvation is quite low—v. 2; Rom. 5:10.
- C. If we are able to forgive an offense and then forget it, that is a sign that we have become an enlarged person, a person with a large heart—Matt. 18:21-35; Eph. 5:21; Col. 3:13.
- D. We need to be impressed with the contrast between narrowness of heart and largeness of heart:
 - 1. Narrowness of heart—not forgiving another party unless and until he repents; largeness of heart—having the loving and forgiving heart of our Father God—Luke 15:20-24; 23:34a; Acts 7:59-60; Mark 11:25.
 - 2. Narrowness of heart—caring for our own things; largeness of heart—caring for the things of Christ Jesus—Phil. 2:19-21.
 - 3. Narrowness of heart—caring for individual spirituality; largeness of heart—caring for the church—1 Cor. 14:3-4, 12, 18-19.
 - 4. Narrowness of heart—having a heart only for certain believers and churches; largeness of heart—having a heart for all believers and all

churches, no matter what their condition may be—Phil. 1:8; 2:1-4; 2 Cor. 11:28.

5. Narrowness of heart—caring for our local church more than for the Body of Christ; largeness of heart—caring more for the Body of Christ than for our local church—Eph. 1:22-23.
6. Narrowness of heart—caring for our own work; largeness of heart—caring for the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem—4:16; Col. 2:19; Rev. 21:2.

III. When we are fully reconciled to God, we become the sanctuary of God, the enlarged Holy of Holies—S. S. 6:2:4; John 14:2 , 20, 23; Rev. 21:2:

- A. The Bible unveils that God wants to be united, mingled, and incorporated with His redeemed people—John 14:20; 15:4a.
- B. Through the ministry of reconciliation, we are incorporated into the processed and consummated Triune God to become, in Christ, an enlarged, universal, divine-human incorporation—John 14:20, 23, 2:
 1. As a result, we become God’s sanctuary, His dwelling place, His Holy of Holies—the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:2, 10, 16.
 2. The tabernacle in the Old Testament is a sign, a picture, of the universal incorporation.
- C. In Song of Songs we see two aspects of the cross’s dealing—the breaking of the self and the dealing with the flesh in a deeper sense; through these two aspects of the cross’s dealing, we become God’s sanctuary—6:4:
 1. To become the sanctuary is to be built up; this is related to the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.
 2. This sanctuary is the Holiest of all, which is God Himself.
 3. When we enter into the Holy of Holies, we enter into God, and then we become the sanctuary; in this sense we become God:
 - a. The lovers of Christ eventually will become duplications of God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.
 - b. John 14:23 and Ephesians 3:17 prove that the God whom we are pursuing is making us His duplication; this is to make us His dwelling place, His Holy of Holies.
- D. It is the love in God that gives Him the yearning to unite, mingle, and incorporate with us, and it is the same love in us that gives us the yearning to unite, mingle, and incorporate with Him—1 John 4:19, 8, 16:
 1. By loving the Lord with the best love, we are incorporated into the Triune God to become His dwelling place—Rev. 2:4; John 14:21, 23; Eph. 3:17.
 2. By loving the Lord with the best love and by participating in every aspect of the divine romance, we become the New Jerusalem, which is the enlarged Holy of Holies—Rev. 21:9-10.