

Message Three

**Living the Christian Life  
in the Kingdom of the Son of God's Love**

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:4, 8; 2:2, 5, 7; 3:14—4:6, 18c

**I. The Christian life in the kingdom of the Son of God's love is a life of faith and love—Col. 1:4, 8; 2:2, 5, 7; 3:14:**

- A. Faith and love are two inseparable virtues of the believers in Christ—1 Tim. 1:14; 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:13; Gal. 5:6:
  - 1. Faith is given to us by God that by it we may receive Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, and thereby enter into the Triune God and be joined to Him as one, having Him as our life, our life supply, and our everything—2 Pet. 1:2; John 1:12; 1 Cor. 6:17.
  - 2. Love issues out of such a wonderful faith and enables us to live out all the riches of the Triune God in Christ with those who have believed into Christ with us, that the Triune God may have a glorious expression.
- B. Faith is for appreciating, substantiating, and receiving the unlimited riches of the Triune God; love is for experiencing, enjoying, and living out the immeasurably rich Triune God.
- C. Faith is for us to be joined to the Triune God, who is everything to us; love is for us to minister and transmit the Triune God to our fellow believers so that, in such a wonderful and powerful faith, we may love one another with divine, transcendent love and live a corporate life in Christ.
- D. In the church, which is the Body of Christ and the one new man, the basic need is love—Col. 2:19; 3:10-11, 14:
  - 1. For us to experience Christ as the Head of the Body, we must have a love that is toward all the saints—1:4.
  - 2. Only love unites, and only love makes all of us one new man—3:14:
    - a. We need a love toward all kinds of peoples from all kinds of cultures; the Spirit is the source, the element, the essence, and the sphere of such a love—1:8.
    - b. If we live in the all-inclusive Spirit, He will be the universal love that causes us to love all the saints.

**II. The Christian life in the kingdom of the Son of God's love is a life in union with Christ—3:12—4:6:**

- A. To live in union with Christ means that in our living we are not apart from Christ; rather, in our living we are identified with Him and are one with Him—John 15:4-5.
- B. To say that in the one new man Christ is all and in all indicates that we are one with Christ and that Christ is one with us—Col. 3:10-11.
- C. We need to be one with the Lord Jesus just as He is one with the Father—John 14:10:
  - 1. The Father and the Son have one life and one living—John 6:57a:

- a. The life of the Father is the life of the Son, and the living of the Son is the living of the Father.
- b. The Father's life is the Son's life, and the Son's living is the Father's living; in this way the Father and the Son have one life and one living.
- 2. Today we and Christ have one life and one living—John 14:19b; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:4; Phil. 1:21a:
  - a. The Son's life becomes our life, and our living becomes His living; this is a life in union with Christ—John 15:4a.
  - b. In a very practical sense, in such a union Christ becomes us and we become Christ; this is the normal Christian living.
- D. If we live in union with Christ, we will let the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts, and we will let the word of Christ dwell in us richly—Col. 3:15-16.
- E. If we live in union with Christ, we will do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, and we will express Christ in our human life—3:17—4:1.
- F. In order to live in union with Christ, we need to persevere in prayer—4:2-3.
- G. The more we live in union with Christ, the more we will receive grace, which enables us to experience the all-inclusive Christ for the reality and practicality of the universal one new man—3:16b; 4:6a; 18c.