

LIVING A LIFE FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

Message Three

Living by Grace and Knowing the Body

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; 13:14; Rev. 22:21; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12

- I. In order to live a life for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we need live by the grace of God in the economy of God – 2 Cor. 12:9; 13:14:**
 - A. Grace is the manifestation of the Triune God in His embodiment in three aspects – the Father, the Son and the Spirit – v. 14; Num. 6:22-27; Psa. 36:8-9.
 - B. Grace is the Triune God in His incarnation to be dispensed into the believers by the Father as the source, by the Son as the element, and by the Spirit as the application – 2 Cor. 13:14.
 - C. The New Testament believers' living under the grace in God's economy is a total living of experiencing the processed and consummated Triune God as grace – Gal. 6:18; Heb. 4:16; Rev. 22:21.
 - D. A total living means that our entire living is a living of the Triune God processed to be grace in us – 2 Cor. 13:14.
 - E. The consummation of the believers' experience of the grace of God in His economy is the church as the Body of Christ – Eph. 1:6-8, 22-23.
- II. In order to live life for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we need to know the Body – Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12-13, 20, 27; Eph. 1:22-23:**
 - A. The goal of God's economy is to produce a Body for His Son; this Body fulfills God's desire for His expression and for the destruction of Satan – Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4, 16; Col. 1:18; 2:19; Gen. 1:26-28.
 - B. The Lord urgently needs the reality of the Body of Christ to be expressed in the local churches; unless there is a substantial expression of the Body, the Lord Jesus will not return – Rom. 12:4-5; 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:27; Eph. 1:23; 4:16; 5:27, 30; Rev. 19:7.
 - C. Christ Himself is the Head, and Christ in all of us is the Body – Rom. 8:10; 12:4-5; 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 3:17; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18, 27; 2:19.
 - D. The work of the Triune God in us is to produce and build up the Body of Christ – Eph. 3:16-21; Rom. 8:11; 12:4-5.
 - E. The Body is the governing law of the life and work of the children of God – Eph. 4:4,16; 1 Cor. 12:4-6, 12-13, 27.
 - F. All the problems of the church today are due to ignorance concerning the Body of Christ – Eph. 1:17-23.
 - G. We need to know the Body in life – 1 John 5:11-12; Col. 3:4; 2:19; Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; 12:4-5.
 - H. We need to know the Body in practice – 1 Cor. 12:20, 27; 15:58.
 - I. If we know the Body, in our consideration, the Body will be first and the local churches will be second – Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1, 4, 16.