The Intrinsic and Organic Building Up . . . – Week 4

The Intrinsic Fellowship of the Churches for Their Organic Relationship.

Jun. 21 – Jun 27 2021

Related Verses

1 John 1:2-3
2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);
3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 1:9
9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor. 10:16-17
16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ?
17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

2 Cor. 13:11,14
11 Finally, brothers, rejoice, be perfected, be comforted, think the same thing, be at peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1 Cor. 6:17
17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Suggested Reading

[We need to see] the intrinsic fellowship of the churches for their organic relationship. The Greek word for fellowship is koinonia, meaning “joint participation, common participation.” This is a very sweet term, but it is difficult to get the proper, accurate, adequate, and equivalent term in the English language...[ The proper meaning has been spoiled.] To some, fellowship is “socializing.” Many people... have some form of worship, but their main interest is in socializing with one another. We must drop such a degraded concept. Our understanding of “fellowship” should be according to the pure Word of God.

The intrinsic fellowship of the churches is the flow of the divine life among and through all the members of the organic Body of Christ (1 John 1: 1-4). (CWWL, 1989, vol. 4, “The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God,” p. 307)

[In 1 John 1: 1-4] John is reporting to us that which he saw and heard. He had heard, seen, and even handled the Word of life [v. 1], which is the eternal life. Now he is testifying and reporting to us the eternal life [v. 2]. Then [in verse 3] John goes on to say that he reported what he had seen and heard, not that we might have “life” but that we might have “fellowship.”... At this point John uses another word to replace the word life. The apostles saw and heard life, and they reported life, but it was for a strong purpose. John was saying, “We report to you life with the strong purpose that you may have fellowship with us.”... “Our fellowship,” the apostles’ fellowship, is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. They report the Son as life to us that we may share this fellowship with them. Then in verse 4, John says, “These things we write that our joy may be made full.” The apostles would be happy to see that the believers would have what they have. What they have is fellowship with the Father and the Son.

There are three major points we need to see when we study the significance of fellowship in the first four verses of 1 John 1. First, fellowship is something of the divine life. Second, this fellowship is the apostles’ fellowship. Third, the apostles expected to see that the believers would share in this fellowship. When we say that this fellowship is something of life, we mean that it is the flow of the divine life. It is the issue of the eternal life and is actually the flow of the eternal life within all the believers who have received and possess the divine life.

The divine life flows. At the conclusion of the Bible the last chapter of Revelation gives us quite a meaningful picture. There is the throne of God and of the Lamb (22: 1). Out of this throne proceeds a current, a flow, which is the flow of the water of life, and this flow is a river.

It may help us to understand this fellowship, this flow of the divine life, if we consider the circulation of blood in our human body. There is only one circulation of blood in our body, and it reaches every member of our body. No member of our physical body is independently autonomous of the other members. All the members of the body participate in the one blood circulation. There are many members but only one flow of blood. The intrinsic element of the human body is its blood. This circulation of blood in our human body is a picture of the intrinsic fellowship in the Body of Christ. (CWWL, 1989, vol. 4, “The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God,” pp. 308-309)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1989, vol. 4, “The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God,” ch. 4

Corporate Reading of “Truth Messages” Chapter 5
– Sections: Self-exaltation; Opinions and Concepts: Maintaining The Genuine Oneness

Related Verses

1 John 1:3
3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Rev. 22:1
1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Act. 2:42
42 And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 Tim 1:3-4
3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things
4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

Phil. 2:1-2
1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of spirit, if any tenderheartedness and compassions,
The Intrinsic and Organic Building Up . . . – Week 4
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2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing.

1 Cor 3:6-7
6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.
7 So then neither is he who plants anything nor he who waters, but God who causes the growth.

Suggested Reading
Fellowship is the issue of the eternal life and is actually the flow of the eternal life within all the believers, who have received and possess the divine life. It is illustrated by the flow of the water of life in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22: 1). All genuine believers are in this fellowship (Acts 2: 42). It is carried on by the Spirit in our regenerated spirit. Hence, it is called “the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” (2 Cor. 13: 14) and “fellowship of [our] spirit” (Phil. 2: 1). It is in this fellowship of the eternal life that we, the believers, participate in all that the Father and the Son are and have done for us; that is, we enjoy the love of the Father and the grace of the Son by virtue of the fellowship of the Spirit (2 Cor. 13: 14).... In Acts 2: 42 it is called “the fellowship of the apostles,” and in 1 John 1: 3 “our [the apostles’] fellowship,” a fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1: 3, footnote 3)

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To have fellowship with the Triune God in the apostles’ fellowship is to put aside our private interests and join with the apostles and the Triune God for the carrying out of God’s purpose.... Our participation in the apostles’ enjoyment of the Triune God is our joining with them and with the Triune God for His divine purpose, which is common to God, the apostles, and all the believers. (1 John 1: 3, footnote 3)

The intrinsic fellowship of the churches is the unique fellowship of the apostles, which is uniquely and universally of all the members of the organic Body of Christ (Acts 2: 42). The flow was first the fellowship of the divine life of the Divine Trinity. Then this fellowship was passed on to the apostles, who were among the first group of believers on earth. Therefore, this flow became the fellowship of the apostles.... In those early days all the believers continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles. There was only one teaching and one fellowship. The apostles did a wonderful work to impart the divine life into people and bring them into the flow of this divine life. This flow, this fellowship, became the new believers’ fellowship. Their fellowship was the fellowship of the apostles, and the fellowship of the apostles is the fellowship of the Triune God.

We must realize that today in the universe there is a flow, which is just God Himself as the water of life flowing out of the Triune God through the apostles and into us.... When we preach the gospel and the ones to whom we preach receive the Lord Jesus, we are giving them an “injection” of the water of life. When they receive the water of life, they are brought into this wonderful fellowship.

Whenever we meet a genuine believer, no matter what nationality or race he may be, something “jumps” within us. This experience may be compared to what happened when Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to see Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb (Luke 1: 41).... John the Baptist exulted (v. 44) upon meeting the Savior, while both of them were still in their mothers’ wombs.... Today we are the “mothers” who have the Lord Jesus within us.... We have to go along with the “jumping” within us. That inward “jumping” is the intrinsic fellowship. (CWWL, 1989, vol. 4, “The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God,” pp. 311-312)


Corporate Reading of “Truth Messages” Chapter 5
– Sections: Keeping A Watchful Eye On Those Who Cause Divisions; Refusing The Factious One

Wednesday 6/23

Related Verses
1 John 1:6-7
6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

Mark 12:30-31
30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength.”
31 The second is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

Rev. 1:10
10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
1 Cor. 16:18
18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Acknowledge therefore such ones.

Rom. 13:8,10,14
8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves the other has fulfilled the law.
10 Love does not work evil to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.

Gal. 5:13-14
13 For you were called for freedom, brothers; only do not turn this freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Suggested Reading
First John 1: 2-3 and 6-7 reveal that the fellowship of the divine life has both a vertical aspect and a horizontal aspect. The vertical aspect of fellowship refers to our fellowship with the Triune God. The horizontal aspect of fellowship refers to our fellowship with one another.

Before the apostles reported the eternal life to [sinners], the apostles themselves already had the vertical fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ (v. 3).... When the apostles reported the eternal life to others, they experienced the horizontal aspect of the
Morning Watch

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Thursday 6/24

Related Verses

1 Cor. 12:28
28 And God has placed some in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then works of power, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

Eph. 1:22-23
22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

1 Cor. 12:11, 18
11 But the one and the same Spirit operates all these things, distributing to each one respectively even as He purposes.
18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.

Related Verses

Eph. 4:17, 29, 32
17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,
29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.
32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

Acts 9:31
31 So then the church throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it was multiplied.

Suggested Reading

The organic relationship of the churches is the unique relationship of the unique church—the universal church composed of all the local churches (1 Cor. 12:28). Today in the Lord’s recovery there are... many local churches, but there is only one unique, universal, and intrinsic fellowship, which is for the organic relationship of the churches.

The elders of each of the local churches should consider what kind of relationship they have with the other churches. Is their relationship limited to the brothers in their locality, or are they in fellowship with all the churches in the Lord’s recovery?... Two churches may be very close to one another geographically yet... may not want to let each other know about their affairs.... The relationship of every church should be the unique, universal fellowship of the divine life. In this fellowship the churches should not have anything private, except certain cases of individuals involving confidential and personal matters. (CWWL, 1989, vol. 4, “The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God,” pp. 314-315)

All the local churches are one church.... Their relationship is not organizational. The relationship of the churches must be organic according to the divine life and based on the organic fellowship of the divine life. If we keep this view, we will be saved from many problems.
Morning Watch

When the first group of apostles was on the earth, the churches were organically one. After a time, however, the churches began to degrade and became divided. In the proper sense all the churches should be “catholic”; they should be universally one. The word catholic, however, has been spoiled. The Catholic Church has created a great hierarchy,...[ which] annuls the headship of Christ. We should hate such a hierarchical practice.

When the Brethren were raised up, they strongly attacked the hierarchical practice of Catholicism. Eventually, however, the Brethren became divided over their doctrinal teachings. One teacher, G. H. Lang, in reacting against Darby, taught that every local assembly should be autonomous. This teaching of autonomy ruined the Brethren, causing division after division.

We should care only to practice the Body life of the church as the organism of the Triune God. In the Lord’s recovery we do not practice autonomy or federation. We only have a practice based upon the unique and universal fellowship in the Body of Christ. The church in one locality should not have the attitude that they have nothing to do with the church in another locality. The churches should not practice having a separate, autonomous relationship among them. It is also wrong for the churches to practice a federated relationship. We should practice the unique relationship based upon the unique and universal fellowship of the Body of Christ. The organic relationship of the churches is based on the unique and universal fellowship among all the members of the organic Body of Christ (cf. Phil. 2: 1).

This organic relationship is practiced uniquely and universally among all the local churches as the unique, organic Body of Christ—the unique church in the universe. (CWWL, 1989, vol. 4, “The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God,” pp. 317-318)


Corporate Reading of “Truth Messages” Chapter 6 – Sections: Sanctification By The Word And The Spirit; Learning To Deal With Our Opinions

The Intrinsic and Organic Building Up . . . – Week 4

The Intrinsic Fellowship of the Churches for Their Organic Relationship.

Related Verses

1 Cor. 12:24-25
24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,
25 That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.

1 Cor. 12:12-13, 27
12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Eph. 4:3
3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

John 17:21-23
21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
23 l in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

2 Cor. 4:16-17
16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,

Suggested Reading

In order to be harmonized, blended, adjusted, mingled, and tempered in the Body life, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit, dispensing Christ to others for the sake of the Body of Christ. The co-workers and elders must learn to be crossed out. Whatever we do should be by the Spirit to dispense Christ. Also, what we do should not be for our interest and according to our taste but for the church.

When a co-worker does anything, he should fellowship with the other co-workers. An elder should fellowship with the other elders. Fellowship tempers us, fellowship adjusts us, fellowship harmonizes us, and fellowship mingles us.... We should not do anything without fellowship with the other saints who are coordinating with us. Fellowship requires us to stop when we are about to do something. In our coordination in the church life and in the Lord’s work, we all have to learn not to do anything without fellowship. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 4, “The Divine and Mystical Realm,” p. 160)

Among us we should have the blending of all the individual members of the Body of Christ, the blending of all the churches in certain districts, the blending of all the co-workers, and the blending of all the elders. Blending means that we should always stop to fellowship with others. Then we will receive many benefits. If we isolate and seclude ourselves, we will lose much spiritual profit. Learn to fellowship. Learn to be blended. From now on, the churches should come together frequently to be blended. We may not be used to it, but after we begin to practice blending a few times, we will acquire the taste for it. This is the most helpful thing in the keeping of the oneness of the universal Body of Christ. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 4, “The Divine and Mystical Realm,” p. 160)

The secret of the practice of the church life is, first, the one accord in the local churches. Second, the secret of the practice of the church life is the oneness in the universal Body (Eph. 4: 3; John 17: 11, 21-23).

The unique relationship, fellowship, and blending of all the local churches should be as much as practicability allows, without boundaries of states, provinces, or nations. If we are divided by any kind of boundary, the church becomes no longer a Body; rather, it becomes a corpse. A divided body is a corpse.

Are the churches in every area willing to be blended together as one?... We may like to be independent under the cloak of being local. I am not teaching that all the local churches should be united in a federation, like the
Morning Watch

federation of the fifty states of the United States. I am showing you that the Bible reveals to us that all the saints and all the local churches are one Body. No one can deny this.

Today, unlike in Paul’s time, travel and communication to nearly anywhere on the earth are very convenient. Because of this the churches today should be blended much more than they were in Paul’s time. Not only according to the revelation of the Bible but also according to the modern conveniences, we should be one, and we should be blended together as much as practicality allows.

The clustering and the moving together of neighboring churches should be as much as possible, without the abolishing of the local administrations in business affairs. Our blending together should not be in name only; we must take some action. The local administration still exists, but in the spiritual element all the churches should be blended together as one. (CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 4, “One Body and One Spirit,” pp. 431-433)


Corporate Reading of “Truth Messages” Chapter 6
– Sections: One In The Triune God; Perfected Into One; Real Building: One In The Father’s Glory

Suggested Reading

The Lord blended the seven churches in Asia into one by sending them one total epistle respectively and collectively with the whole book of Revelation (1: 4; 11: 2: 1—3: 22). On the one hand, the Lord wrote each church an epistle, and on the other hand, He put all seven epistles together as one total epistle and sent it to each one of the seven churches. Eventually, all seven churches received the same thing. The Book of Revelation shows that there should be only one church in one city. It also reveals that all the churches collectively should also be one. This should give us a clear view that in the eyes of the Lord the churches are one. The Lord has only one Body. In order for the churches to exist on the globe, we have to be scattered, but our being scattered should not be a basic factor that causes us to be separated and divided. (CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 4, “One Body and One Spirit,” pp. 434-435)

1 Peter 4:8-9
8 Above all, have fervent love among yourselves, because love covers a multitude of sins.
9 Be hospitable to one another without murmuring.

Rom. 15:7
7 Therefore receive one another, as Christ also received you to the glory of God.

Col. 3:10-11, 15
10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Rom. 15:25-26
25 But now I am going to Jerusalem, ministering to the saints.
26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

Saturday 6/19

Related Verses

Rev. 1:11
11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

1 Cor. 16:19
19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you much in the Lord, with the church, which is in their house.

Rom. 14:3
3 He who eats, let him not despise him who does not eat; and he who does not eat, let him not judge him who eats, for God has received him.

1 Peter 4:8-9
8 Above all, have fervent love among yourselves, because love covers a multitude of sins.
9 Be hospitable to one another without murmuring.

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15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Rom. 15:25-26
25 But now I am going to Jerusalem, ministering to the saints.
26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ.... I treasure the local churches because of a purpose. The local churches are the procedure to bring me into the Body of Christ. The churches are the Body, but the churches may not have the reality of the Body of Christ. Thus, we need to be in the local churches so that we can be ushered, or brought, into
The Intrinsic and Organic Building Up . . . – Week 4

The Intrinsic Fellowship of the Churches for Their Organic Relationship.

Jun. 21 – Jun 27 2021

Morning Watch


Hymns, #737

1

Life eternal brings us
Fellowship of life,
Fellowship in Spirit,
Saving us from strife.

2

Life eternal gives us
Fellowship divine;
Thus the Lord as Spirit
May with us combine.

3

It is life in Spirit
Brings this fellowship;
Fellowship in Spirit
Doth with grace equip.

4

We, by life’s enabling,
Fellowship aright;
Fellowship in Spirit
Brings us into light.

5

By the outward cleansing,
Fellowship we keep;
Inwardly anointed,
Fellowship we reap.

6

Fellowship is deepened
Thru the cross of death;
Fellowship is lifted
By the Spirit’s breath.

Fellowship will free us
From our sinful self;
Fellowship will bring us
Into God Himself.

7

Related Verses

1 Cor. 12:3, 20, 22-23, 26
3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking in the Spirit of God says, Jesus is accursed; and no one can say, Jesus is Lord! except in the Holy Spirit.
20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
23 And those members of the body which we consider to be less honorable, these we clothe with more abundant honor; and our uncomely members come to have more abundant comeliness,
26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.

Eph. 4:11-16
11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,
12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Further Reading

CWWL, 1989, vol. 4, “The Organic Building up of the Church as the Body of Christ to be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God”, ch. 4