

“WORD OF LIFE”

July 12, 2026

57. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (37)

T. TO THE BELIEVERS

52. Friend and 53. Brother

Suggested Hymns: [# 210](#) ([# 203](#)) / [# 233](#) / [# 30](#)

✚ “... the words ... are spirit and are life.,” (John 6:63)

John 15:15 - No longer do I call you slaves, ...; but I have called you friends,
for all the things which I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

John 20:17 - Jesus said to her, ... go to My brothers and say to them,
I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.

Rom. 8:29 - Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son,
that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Heb. 2:11 - For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One,
for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

✚ “... the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...,” (Phil. 3:8)

❖ In John 15:15, we the branches of the vine, Christ is our Friend

- We are the Lord’s friends, we can know the Father’s desire to be expressed, glorified, in a corporate Body.
- What the Lord has heard directly from the Father He has made known to us, His friends.

❖ But in John 20:17, on the day of His resurrection, Christ called us His Brother

- God’s purpose is to produce many brothers of His firstborn Son (Rom. 8:29).
 - We have been predestinated by God to be conformed to the image of the Son
 - so that He may be the Firstborn among many brothers.
 - In His resurrection Christ, the only begotten Son, became the Firstborn among many brothers.
 - Christ is the Firstborn, the prototype, and we, as His many brothers, are the mass production.
- God’s purpose in having many sons is that we express Him in a corporate way.
 - God’s kingdom is built up with His many sons, and
 - the Body of Christ is built up with His many brothers.
- The kingdom of God is the Body life, and the Body life in the church is God’s kingdom
 - where He is expressed and where His dominion is exercised on earth.
 - This is God’s purpose in producing us as the brothers of Christ.

✚ “For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.” (1Cor. 14:31)

✚ In Heb. 2:11, the Son, who is the Sanctifier, and we, who are being sanctified, are all of one Father. We are the same in the divine life and nature. Therefore, Christ is not ashamed to call us brothers. Christ and we, the believers are of the same source and have the same life with the same nature.

✚ Through His life-imparting death and resurrection, Christ has made us one with Him. Through His resurrection we have received the Father’s life and nature. The Father is not only the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; He is also our Father. We, the many brothers, are the same as the Firstborn, and He is the same as we are.

*{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 57 letter T- 52 & 53)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}*

Hymn 210 Praise the Lord – Satisfaction with Him

- 1 I've found a **friend** in **Jesus**, [John 15:15]
He's everything to me,
He's the **fairest** of ten thousand to my soul;
The Apple-tree of trees, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse
and make me fully whole.
In sorrow He's my **comfort**,
in trouble He's my stay,
He tells me every care on Him to roll:
He's the **Apple-tree** of trees, [SoS 2:3]
the Bright and **Morning Star**, [Rev. 22:16]
He's the **fairest** of ten thousand to my soul.
- 2 He all my **griefs** has taken,
and all my **sorrows** borne;
In temptation He's my strong
and **mighty tower**;
I've all for Him forsaken,
and all my **idols torn**
From my heart, and now He **keeps me**
by His power.
Though all the world forsake me,
and Satan tempt me sore,
Through **Jesus** I shall safely reach the goal:
He's the **Apple-tree** of trees,
the Bright and **Morning Star**, [2Pet. 1:19]
He's the **fairest** of ten thousand to my soul.
- 3 He'll never, **never leave me**,
nor yet forsake me here,
While I **live by faith** and **do His blessed will**;
A wall of fire about me,
I've nothing now to fear,
With His manna He my hungry soul
shall fill.
Then sweeping up to **glory**
to **see His blessed face**,
Where rivers of delight shall ever roll:
He's the **Apple-tree** of trees,
the Bright and **Morning Star**,
He's the **fairest** of ten thousand to my soul.

John 15:13-14 –

No one has greater love than this,
that one **lay down his life** for his **friends**.
You are My friends if you **do** what I
command you.

Heb. 2:11 –

... for which cause He is not ashamed to **call**
them brothers,

Previously, the most intimate term the **Lord**
had used in reference to His **disciples** was
“**friends**”. But after His resurrection He began
to call them “**brothers**,” for through His
resurrection His disciples were regenerated
with the divine life. Through His death and
resurrection, the Father's only begotten **Son**
became the **Firstborn** among **many brothers**.

[Hymn 203 – His Increase]

Hymn 233 Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

- 1 O what a miracle, my **Lord**,
That I'm in **Thee** and **Thou in me**,
That Thou and I are really one;
O what a wondrous mystery!
- 2 For me Thy body Thou didst give,
That I may ever share in Thee;
For me Thy precious **blood** was **shed**,
That from my **sins** I might be free.
- 3 By resurrection Thou didst change
Thy form and as the **Spirit** come;
Thou wouldst that I **be filled** with Thee
That all Thy riches mine become.
- 4 Now as the **symbols** we behold,
Thy loving self we see anew;
We thank Thee for Thy heart's desire
As all Thy travail we review.
- 5 We **eat** the **bread** and **drink** the **wine**,
And to Thy sweetness we are led;
In spirit each **receiving** Thee,
Our spirits with Thyself are fed.
- 6 We long to **eat** and **drink** e'en more,
To take Thyself in spirit thus,
Till Thou shalt all **our being fill**
And **true remembrance** have from us.

John 18:11 –

... The **cup** which the **Father** has given Me,
shall I not **drink** it?

1Cor. 10:16 –

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**?

In **Adam** our cup, our **portion**, was God's
wrath (Rom. 1:18; cf. Rev. 14:10).
However, Christ **drank** that cup for us and
shed His blood (John 18:11), and through His
blood He formed and brought to us another
cup, the **cup of blessing**.

Previously, our cup was the **cup of wrath**,
but **now** we have another **cup**, which in the
New Testament is called the **cup of blessing**
and in the **Old Testament** is called the cup of
salvation. Because of what the Lord Jesus did
on the cross, our cup, our **portion**, has
changed **from** the **cup of wrath** **to** the **cup of**
blessing, which is the cup of salvation.

Hymn 30 Worship of the Father – His Love

- 1 What **love** Thou hast bestowed on us,
We thank Thee from our heart; [1John 3:1]
Our **Father**, we would **worship** Thee
And **praise** for all Thou art. [John 4:24]
- 2 Thy heart Thou hast revealed to us,
Made known th' **eternal will**;
Within the **Son** Thou hast come forth,
Thy purpose to fulfill.
- 3 Thou **gavest** Thy beloved **Son** [John 3:16]
In love to come and **die**,
That we may be Thy **many sons**,
As **heirs** with Him, made nigh. [Rom. 8:17]
- 4 Through Him we have Thy very **life**
And Thou our **Father** art; [Joh 1:4; 1Joh 5:12]
Thy very **nature**, all Thyself, [2Pet. 1:4]
Thou dost to us **impart**.
- 5 Thy **Spirit** into ours has come
That we may “**Abba**” cry; [Gal. 4:6]
Of **Spirit born**, with **Spirit sealed**,
To be transformed thereby.
- 6 The **many sons** to glory brought [Heb. 2:10]
Is Thine **eternal goal**,
And to Thy **Son's** own image wrought,
Thou wilt conform the whole. [Rom. 8:29]
- 7 Throughout Thy **transformation** work
Thou dost direct each one, [2 Cor. 3:18]
From **glory unto glory** bring
Until the work is done.
- 8 What **love** Thou, **Father**, hast bestowed;
We'll ever **grateful** be; [Psa. 106:1; 1Thes 5:18]
We'll **worship** Thee forevermore
And **praise** unceasingly. [Psa. 150:6]

Heb 2:10 –

For it was fitting for Him, ...,
in leading many **sons** into glory, ...

Heb 2:12 –

Saying, “I will declare Your name to My
brothers; in the midst of the church I will
sing hymns of praise to You.”

God's **desire** is to have many sons (many
brothers of the **firstborn**). God's work in the
universe is a story of gaining many sons. In
John 1 and 3 we can see God's Son, His only
begotten Son. But in **Romans 8** the only
begotten Son has become the **firstborn** Son.
Since Christ is the firstborn Son of God, then
there must be more sons than just the Son;
there must be other sons. **Hebrews 2:10**
speaks of God leading many sons into glory.
These many sons are a corporate son, a
corporate body composed of many sons.