

“WORD OF LIFE”

August 30, 2026

58. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (38)

U. IN THE CHURCH

3. The Body

Suggested Hymns: [# 1174](#), [\(# 542\)](#) / [# 222](#) / [# 8032](#)

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

- Eph. 5:30 - Because we are members of His Body.
- 1Cor. 10:17 - ... we who are many are one Body; ...
- 1Cor. 12:12 - 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.
- 1Cor. 12:27 - Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.
- Eph. 1:22-23 - ... the church, Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all..
- Eph. 5:32 - This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.
- Col. 3:15 - And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

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

❖ All the members of the body, are one body, so also is the Christ (1 Cor. 12:12).

➤ “The Christ” is the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ.

- composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body with all the believers
 - all the believers of Christ are organically united with Him
 - and constituted of His life and element to become His Body, an organism, to express Him.
- He is not only the Head but also the Body.
 - As a vine includes not only the stock but also the branches, so the corporate Christ,
 - the Body-Christ, includes not only Christ Himself but also the members of Christ’s Body,
- Christ Himself is the element, the factor, that makes us parts of Him.
 - to be parts of Christ as members of His Body, we must have Christ wrought into our being.

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

✚ God, became flesh for our redemption. Then in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit to come into us and work within us. In this way He becomes the Body-Christ. Now in the church life we enjoy not only God, the Redeemer, and the life-giving Spirit but also the Christ who is the Body.

✚ When we come together, we share Christ with one another, and the corporate Christ comes forth. The coming forth of the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ, depends on our speaking Him forth in the meetings. When we speak Christ, Christ comes forth in our speaking. If we all speak forth Christ, then the corporate Christ will come forth. This is the practicality of Christ as the Body.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 58 letter T- 3)
[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 1174 Praise the Lord— His Increase

- 1 What a victory! What a triumph!
God Himself became a man,
Clothed Himself in human nature
To fulfill His mighty plan.
He through death destroyed the devil;
Risen now, the Son of Man!
- 2 Jesus by His human virtues
Did the subtle one arrest;
He as man withstood the tempter,
Fully passed through every test.
Now in spirit I can take Him,
All His virtues to possess.
- 3 In the Spirit of this Jesus
Is His human life so fine.
Human virtues have been added
To the Spirit all divine.
What abundance in this Spirit,
Rich supply for all mankind!
- 4 How mysterious! Yet how real!
Such a man now lives in me.
Into all my heart He's spreading—
He, my human life, to be.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
I will praise unceasingly.
- 5 Oh, what wonder! Oh, how glorious!
God in flesh is manifest.
We the members of His Body
His humanity express.
For the building of God's dwelling
We His human life possess.

Gal 2:20 –

I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Eph 5:25 –

...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

Col 1:24 –

I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;

The Body of Christ is not an organization but an organism constituted of all the regenerated believers for the expression and activities of the Head.

The Body of Christ is the issue of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ, who has come into the church. By means of the ascended Christ's heavenly transmission, we are made one with Him, and thus His Body is produced.

The Body of Christ is His fullness. The fullness of Christ issues from the enjoyment of the riches of Christ. Through the enjoyment of Christ's riches, we become His fullness to express Him.

[Hymn # 542 –His Riches]

Hymn 222 Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

- 1 Dear Lord, we thank Thee for this bread,
It is a sign divine;
In it we see the mysteries
Of God's unique design.
- 2 This bread Thy body signifies,
Which Thou hast giv'n for us,
That we may share Thy life divine,
Partaking of Thee thus.
- 3 For us Thy body Thou didst break
That Thou may thus impart
Thyself as life to us that we
May be Thy counterpart.
- 4 This bread thus also signifies
Thy body mystical,
Of which we living members are,
With Thee identical.
- 5 Though we are many grains of wheat,
Yet all one loaf, one bread;
Remembering Thee in such a way,
With Thee we all are fed.
- 6 As of this bread we all commune,
Thou, Lord, dost satisfy;
With all the saints we fellowship,
And Thee we testify.

Isa 53:10 –

But Jehovah was pleased to crush Him, to afflict Him with grief. When He makes Himself an offering for sin, He will see His seed, He will extend His days, ...

Christ volunteered to be an offering for sin, (the Lamb of God) an offering for sin in its totality—for wrongdoings, mistakes, trespasses, transgressions, evildoings, and iniquities.

The seed, a corporate seed, is the church as the Body of Christ, comprising all the believers produced as the many grains by the death of Christ as the one grain and by His reproductive resurrection. Christ is the resurrected Life-giver, the life-giving Spirit, to produce a seed for the building up of His Body as His continuation for Jehovah's pleasure and for Christ's satisfaction.

Today Christ is extending His days by living in His believers (Gal. 2:20). We, His believers as His Body are His extension.

The pleasure of God is to see many sons born of Him to become the members of Christ, who constitute the church as the Body of Christ, the corporate expression of Christ. This depends altogether on Christ's death and resurrection.

Hymn 8032 Worship of the Father – His Grace in Sonship

- 1 We praise Thee, glorious Father,
As objects of Thy grace,
Who for Thine own heart's pleasure
Are now before Thy face:
Thy sons marked out for glory
Known from eternity
With Christ Thy Well-beloved,
Object supreme to Thee.
- 2 For holiness Thou chose us,
Ere earth was set in space,
Predestined us Thy glorious
Inheritance in grace;
Thou marked us out beforehand,
Chose us for sonship's sake;
Our full predestined portion,
When full-grown, we'll partake.
- 3 As Thou predestinated,
Thou called us to be graced;
Thy life divine imparted,
Our every sin erased.
Our pledge and seal's the Spirit,
Supplying boundlessly;
Thine ever, we inherit
Thy wealth eternally.
- 4 Who else but Thee, O Father,
Could in Thine only Son
So bless us with Thy Spirit,
And have us for Thine own?
Soon shall we be forever
With Christ in glory; then
We'll shine in His blest image
Eternally, Amen!

Eph 1:5 –

Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Phi 2:13 –

For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

God has a will, in which is His good pleasure. God predestinated us to be His sons according to His pleasure, according to His heart's delight.

God's marking us out beforehand was to destine us unto sonship. We were predestinated to be sons of God even before we were created. Hence, as God's creatures we need to be regenerated by Him that we may participate in His life to be His sons.

Sonship implies having not only the life but also the position of a son. God's marked-out ones have the life to be His sons and the position to inherit Him.

To be made holy—to be sanctified by God by His putting Himself into us and then mingling His nature with us—is the process, the procedure.

To be sons of God is the aim, the goal, and is a matter of our being joined to the Son of God and conformed to a particular form or shape, the very image of the firstborn Son of God, that our whole being, including our body, may be "sonized" by God.