

DEEPER TEACHINGS
(MEAT OF THE WORD)

#37

FOR YE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST
ONE FLESH

By Sam Fife



According to the grace of God which is
Given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder,
I have laid the foundation, and another
buildeth thereon. But let every man take
heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:10

FOR YE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST ONE FLESH by Sam Fife

Ephesians 5:29 - For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

We who are ministering in the move of God's Spirit today, because, like Paul, we took not upon the seen things, but the unseen things, for the seen things are temporal but the unseen (spiritual) things are eternal, are often accused of spiritualizing the scriptures too much. Those who make such accusations, upon reading this study which reveals what this scripture which says, "No man ever yet hateth his own flesh" really means, will probably feel more justified than ever in their accusation.

But what they fail to see is, when the scripture says, "Ye are the body of Christ," then immediately the scripture itself has moved out of the realm of the literal and into the spiritual. For there is no way that we, who are many bodies, can all be the one Body of Christ, in the carnal physical sense. Only as we see and understand in the Spirit can we know that this is absolutely true and that we are not, in God's reality, many individual bodies, but only many members of the one Body of Christ, with the one Spirit of Christ dwelling in it. I do not like the word 'spiritualize,' for it is a word the devil has coined to cast reflection upon the true spiritual realities, and try to hold man down in the realm of the carnal and fleshly and physical, to keep him from growing up into the true realities, which are spiritual.

Thus I prefer the word Spirit-ual-ity which conveys the idea of Spirit reality, and reveals that the Spiritu-ual-ities are the true Re-al-ities. We have been supernaturally born of the

Spirit from above. Therefore we have had, not a physical birth, but a spiritual birth. Therefore it follows that, since we have had a spiritual birth, we ought to have a spiritual growing up, into a spiritual life, that will bring us to a spiritual maturity, speaking a spiritual language, that will have left behind the carnal, fleshy, physical, literal language we spoke before we were born of the Spirit. And since the great teacher, the Holy Spirit, Who was sent to teach us all things, and lead us into all truth, is a Spirit, it only follows that He will teach us with spiritual words, which have spiritual meaning, which must be spiritually discerned, or understood. Thus the scripture says, "The natural man understandeth not the things of the Spirit, neither can he know them, for they must be Spiritually discerned." And since we have had, not a physical birth, but a spiritual birth, and are being taught by a great Teacher, Who is not physical, but a Spirit, to grow up into an eternal spiritual life, it only follows that we are growing up to live forever, not in a physical body, but a many-membered spiritual body, and that body is the many membered "Body of Christ," of which the many-membered physical body we were birthed into in our first physical birth is but a type.

So now we, who have been birthed of the Spirit, have been birthed into a new body, the many-membered Body of Christ. Thus 1st Corinthians 12:13 says, "For by one spirit we have all been baptized into one body." The word that is translated 'baptized' here in the English translation, is the Greek word "Baptizo," which in its use here, means to take a number of individual elements, and immerse them all into one another, so that they are no longer many individual elements, but one. So we, in our new birth by the Spirit, were immersed into one another, so that we are no longer many individual bodies, but one body, the Body of Christ. Therefore we are no longer to live as individuals, in our individual bodies, but are, from henceforth, to live only as members one of another in the one Body of Christ.

Truly the literal, carnal, minded Christian cannot yet see this, and must scream the word 'Spiritualizing.' For the carnal mind is enmity against God. It cannot see the things of the Spirit. But those who are growing in the Spirit are growing out of the carnal mind, and at last are seeing that we now have life, not in many individual bodies, but in the Body of Christ. Thus they are ready to understand what Paul meant when he said, "No man ever yet hated his own flesh but loveth it and cherisheth it even as the Lord the Church." Like me, they have gotten the revelation that the individual body they dwell in is not their flesh anymore, but all the members of that many-membered Body of Christ are now their flesh, the body they were born into in the first birth is not their body any more, but the body they have been born again into is their body now.

Therefore they no longer desire to live unto the old self-body any more, but they desire to live unto the new body they have been born into, and the members thereof.

They are beginning to love and cherish their new flesh, of their new body, more than their old, for no man ever hated his own flesh. When all of God's children grow out of their carnal mind, so they can see, and walk in, this great truth, Satan and his demons will never be able to divide the Body of Christ again. Malice and anger and backbiting and hatred will depart out of the Body of Christ, for no man ever yet hated his own flesh. Denominationalism and division will depart forever out of the Body of Christ, for no man ever yet hated his own flesh.

Christians will find it easy to get under the burden of prayer for one another when they see this truth. For when one of the members of our old body gets sick, we don't turn from it, or cast it aside. We'll get down beside our bed and pray for hours for God to heal it, and most will give their last dime to the doctors and hospitals to get it healed. How much more should we do so for our new body, our flesh, that we shall dwell in throughout eternity.

In verse 31 Paul says, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife and the twain shall be one flesh." He goes on in verse 32 to say, "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and his church." Paul made it clear he was not speaking of physical things, or a physical man and wife relationship, or a physical body, but of that great mystery, the Spiritual relationship between Christ and His Church, and of that Spiritual body, the Body of Christ.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother," that is what Jesus did. He walked out of the carpenter shop, and left father and mother, that He might be joined to His spiritual bride and body. He left behind all the old creation relationship, that He might enter into new creation life with His new mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers. His mother did not understand this, that He was beginning a new creation. One day she sent for Him, and thought He would come running. The messenger said to Jesus, "Your mother and brethren are calling for you." But Jesus was busy with his new creation family. He looked around Him and said, "Who are my mother and brethren, whosoever is in the will of God, and doeth it, the same are my mother and father and sister and brethren." He had entered into the new creation, and the old creation relationships were no longer the true realities. In the old creation Mary was His mother and her sons were His brothers, but in the new creation all who were walking in the revelation of God were His father, mother, sister, brothers. He was dead to the natural family and alive to the spiritual family.

My own mother had a hard time understanding this as I began to live in the New Creation I have been born by the Spirit into. When I would be away ministering for many months, come back home to Miami, often there would be members of my new body and family at the airport to meet me, some with needs, some with work to be done for the Master. My mother, for some time, couldn't understand why I didn't go immediately to see her first. Sometimes it would

be two days before I had time to pick up the phone and call, or go by and see her. Finally I had to sit down and carefully explain, "Mom I've been birthed into a new creation by the Spirit of God and I'm living in that new creation. Old things have passed away, all things have become new. You're not my only mother now. I've got many mothers and sisters and brothers out there, and I hope you understand, but I don't love you any more than I do them." Because she is losing her own carnal mind and growing spiritually she understood and she doesn't get hurt anymore.

I have two brothers who have never been born again, therefore those around me, who have been born again, are more my brothers than they. We have little fellowship anymore, little to talk about. I am of the Spirit, they are of the flesh. I am of the new creation they are of the old creation. If they do not get birthed into the new creation soon I will never see them again throughout eternity. But those who are my spiritual brothers and body, I will live with them, yea in them, throughout eternity.

How sad it is that, to many Christians, this new creation has never become true reality. They have never left father and mother that they might become one flesh with their new creation body and family. They call one another 'brother Jones' or 'sister Brown' when they go to Church, but it is only lip service to them. They do it because it is traditional to do so, not because they have come alive spiritually and are fully aware that they have been birthed into a new creation, where those whom they so lightly call brother or sister, are, in the truest sense, not only their own family, but also their own body, yea their own flesh.

They shout they have been born again, but they are still living in the old Adam, old-creation-life and relationships. The idea that all others who have had the new birth are in reality their true family, their real body, and their true flesh, would be some weird, far out doctrine to them. Their preachers preach 'regeneration,' which means 'recreation,' but they are still living old-creation-life. And those of us

who insist that, if we preach new creation, we must live new creation, they consider false prophets.

But there are those of us who are tired of preaching one thing and living another. Tired of preaching a spiritual birth and living in the old life. If we are going to preach a new birth we want to live a new life. If we are going to preach a spiritual birth we want to live a spiritual life, not a carnal, physical life. If we've had a spiritual birth we want a spiritual growth, a spiritual language, a spiritual life, a spiritual maturity. If we are going to preach we have a spiritual Head (Jesus), we want to live in a spiritual body. If my natural head is no longer my head, but Jesus is, then let my natural body be no longer my body but let Jesus' many-membered Body be my body and their flesh my flesh that, as He said, we might be one flesh. If we are going to preach, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature," then let us be new creatures. If we are going to preach new creation, then let us live new creation.

I find myself in this hour with a great love for all God's people who have been born again of the Spirit of God, but I proclaim to all who hear my voice that I do not want to live with you in the flesh, but only in the Spirit. I am not going to know you after the flesh, according to the old creation relationship, but only after the Spirit. I am not going to live with you in old-creation-life, but only in new-creation-life. The Spirit of God in me shall exhort you, and preach to you, and plead with you, until we are all living new-creation-life, not as a bunch of individual bodies, but as one Body with many members.

I do not want unity with you, I want union In You. I do not desire that you just cooperate with me, because we are all working for the same Lord, and trying to build the same Kingdom, and fighting the same devil. I want to live in you, and you in me, as one body and members one of another, so that we will not be two individuals cooperating with one another, but members of one body having life in one another.

The reason the power of God the Father flowed through Jesus in fullness was because He was one body with no schism in His body. You will note, in your study of scripture, that He did no miracle until He came down from the mount of temptation, for it was there that all warring and schism was purged out of the members of His body, and they became one. With His three great temptations Satan sought to divide the members of Jesus' body, and play them one against another, as He does us. First He said to Jesus, "If thou be the Son of God turn this stone into bread." Jesus had been fasting for forty days and He was hungry. You can be sure the members of His flesh cried out for food. Certainly this was a great temptation to Him, for the Bible says He was tempted in all points like as we. As this idea was presented to Him, there arose a great warring in His members. But the Spirit that was in Him rose up within Him and brought them all into submission one to another, and as one body, they said to Satan, "Get thee behind me," and he was defeated. Then Satan appealed to the ego. He said, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from the Temple and prove to all the world the angels will bear thee up. Prove your Sonship." You can be sure that, just as we, through our ego, desire to rise up and do mighty works to prove our Sonship to the world, instead of waiting to let the Father prove it, so there arose a great warring in Jesus' members again. But again the Spirit in Him rose up and brought them all into subjection and, as one, they rejected Satan saying, "Get thee behind me," and again he had to do so. Then Satan threw the big one at Him. He showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them and offered them if Jesus' members would yield to him. If it were not true that the members of Jesus' body were sorely tempted by this offer, then the Bible could not have said He was tempted in all points like us. Truly they were tempted as we are tempted. The warring rose up within Jesus. The same warring we feel, as the Spirit of God calls us to turn from the glory of this world, and Satan offers us more, and better of its goods. But again the

Spirit rose up in Him, and brought them all into subjection one to another, and as one they said, "Get thee behind me Satan." Suddenly Satan became powerless before Jesus, for there was not one member in Jesus' body that He could entice, and divide, from the other members, and weaken that body.

Thus the Bible records that Jesus went down from that mountain in the power of the Spirit, and began doing mighty miracles. In this last hour there is going to come forth a Body of Christ, that has been growing in a Nazareth of this world, in which is found no good thing, just as Phillip said of the Nazareth Jesus grew up in. Just as Jesus came out of that Nazareth to face the tempter's greatest efforts to divide His members, so this body will be led into the wilderness to be tempted. The antichrist shall make every effort to entice, and tempt, and bring the division that has always kept the Body of Christ powerless and under his bondage.

But there is coming forth a Body, in which the Spirit of Christ in them is going to rise up, and deliver them from their individualism, and as one Body they are all going to say to Satan. "Get thee behind me Satan." And with not one weak member left that he can tempt and weaken the Body with, Satan is going to have to get behind us. And that Body is going to go forth with the full power of the Father flowing through it, because there will be no more schism and warring in its members, and that Body is going to deliver the whole creation, which has been groaning and travailing until now, waiting for the manifestation of the Sons of God, who shall deliver the earth from the bondage of corruption.

Hallelujah! The Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth.