

Message Four

Reigning in Life for the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:17, 21; 12:1-2, 4-5, 11

I. We need to reign in life to live in the Body of Christ—5:17; 12:4-5:

- A. When we live not by our natural life but by the divine life within us, we are in resurrection; the issue of this is the Body of Christ—Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:6, 10-11; 12:4-5.
- B. The function of the Body is to express Christ; the purpose of believers being members one of another in the Body of Christ is that we would live Christ and express Him together—v. 5; Eph. 1:22-23.
- C. Living in the Body of Christ requires that we reign in life over death and Satan—Rom. 5:14, 17, 21; 16:20:
 1. If we would reign in life over death, we need the abundance of grace and the living Spirit—5:17; 8:2, 11:
 - a. The only thing that can subdue death is the uncreated life of God; whenever the divine life comes in, death disappears—vv. 2, 9-11.
 - b. We need to open our being to the Lord and allow His grace to flow through us and fill us; the flowing grace will be active in us as the Spirit, who will be life to us, and this life will subdue death and swallow it up—5:21.
 2. The only way to reign in life over Satan and overcome him is to stay in the high tower of our regenerated spirit—16:20; Prov. 18:10; 1 John 5:4, 18.

II. The result of reigning in life—that is, living under the ruling of the divine life—is the practice of the Body life in the church life—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:16:

- A. Each aspect of the living of the Body life in Romans 12 requires us to be ruled by the divine life:
 1. Being transformed by the renewing of the mind—v. 2b.
 2. Not thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think—v. 3a.
 3. Thinking so as to be sober-minded as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith—v. 3b.
 4. Considering that there are many members in one Body and all the members do not have the same function—vv. 4-5.
 5. Only by reigning in life can we live a life of the highest virtues for the Body life in the church life:
 - a. Loving without hypocrisy and loving warmly in brotherly love—vv. 9a, 10a.
 - b. Not being slothful in zeal but burning in spirit, serving the Lord—v. 11.
 - c. Enduring in tribulation—v. 12b.
 - d. Rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep—v. 15.
 - e. As far as it depends on us, living in peace with all men—v. 18.
- B. The Body life is expressed in the church life; only by living under the ruling of the divine life, that is, by reigning in life, is it possible for us to live the proper church life—14:1-23; 16:1, 4-5, 16.