

Message Four

**Eating, Digesting, and Assimilating God
to Become the Body of Christ for God's Administration**

Scripture Reading: John 6:35, 51, 53-59; 1 Cor. 10:3-4, 17; 12:12

- I. God desires that man eat, digest, and assimilate Him; God's intention is that man would take Him by eating Him—John 1:1, 14; 6:35, 51, 53-59:**
 - A. To eat is to contact things outside of us and to receive them into us, with the result that they eventually become our constitution—Gen. 2:16-17.
 - B. To eat the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into us that He may be assimilated by the regenerated new man in the way of life—John 6:48, 50, 56-57.
- II. Eating implies both dispensing and mingling—Jer. 15:16:**
 - A. Eating is the way to experience God's dispensing for His expression—Gen. 1:26; 2:9.
 - B. The food eaten, digested, and assimilated by us actually becomes us; this is a matter of mingling—Matt. 4:4.
- III. As we eat the Lord Jesus, we need to have proper spiritual digestion—Ezek. 2:8—3:3; Jer. 15:16; Rev. 10:9-10:**
 - A. If we have good digestion, there will be a thoroughfare for the food to get into every part of our inward being—Eph. 3:16-17a.
 - B. Indigestion means that there is no way for Christ as the spiritual food to get into our inward parts—Heb. 3:12-13, 15; 4:2.
 - C. We need to keep our whole being with all our inward parts open to the Lord so that the spiritual food will have a thoroughfare within us; if we do this, we will have proper digestion and assimilation, we will absorb Christ as spiritual nourishment, and Christ will become our constituent—Col. 3:4, 10-11.
- IV. The entire Christian life should be a feast, an enjoyment of Christ as our banquet—1 Cor. 5:7-8; 10:16-17:**
 - A. We should all eat the same spiritual food, not eating anything other than the Lord or enjoying anything in place of the Lord—vv. 3-4.
 - B. Eating is related to enjoyment; if our enjoyment is something other than Christ, then in the sight of God that enjoyment is idolatry—vv. 7, 14, 22.
- V. God's economy is that we eat Christ and be constituted with Him in order to express Him and represent Him—1 Tim. 1:4; John 6:35, 41, 57; Gen. 1:26:**
 - A. God's eternal plan is to dispense Himself into us so that He becomes every fiber of our inward being—Col. 3:4, 10-11.
 - B. God's economy is not a matter of outward things but of Christ coming into us inwardly; for this, we need to take Christ by eating Him—Eph. 3:17a; John 6:57.
- VI. The way for us to become the reality of the kingdom of the heavens is to eat Christ as the all-inclusive bread—Matt. 15:26-27, 32-37:**

- A. As the heavenly King, the Lord Jesus rules over us by feeding us with Himself as bread—John 6:5, 27, 35.
- B. By eating Christ as the all-inclusive bread, we are subdued and brought under His kingly and heavenly rule and thus are constituted with the reality of the kingdom—Matt. 14:14-21; 15:32-38; 5:3, 6, 8.
- C. All the kingly elements are in this bread; thus, the more we eat Christ as the all-inclusive bread, the more the royal ingredients are constituted into us to become the ruling element within us and to make us the increase of Christ as the reality of the kingdom of the heavens—Dan. 2:34, 35b, 44-45.

VII. We are all one Body because we all partake of the one bread; our joint partaking of the one bread makes us one—1 Cor. 10:17:

- A. Our partaking of Christ makes us all His one Body; the Christ of whom we all partake makes us all one.
- B. God's eternal purpose is to have a group of saved and regenerated people who have become one to be an organic Body to carry out His administration—Eph. 3:10-11; 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13, 27.

VIII. The Body of Christ is the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ—12:12-13:

- A. The corporate Christ is composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body with all the believers as His members—Rom. 12:4-5.
- B. The Bible considers Christ and the church as one mysterious Christ—Acts 9:4-5:
 1. Christ is the Head of this mysterious Christ, and the church is the Body of this mysterious Christ.
 2. The two have been joined to become the one mysterious Christ—Eph. 5:32.