

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Oct. 01, 2023

The church in Phoenix

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meeting at meeting hall

7:00 pm – Spanish-speaking prayer meeting at home

Thursday

7:00 pm – Small Group Meetings

Friday

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

9:30 am – Cleaning & Maintenance at the Hall

7:30 pm – Young People's Meeting

Continue in the Ministry
and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

*Knowing, Experiencing, and
Enjoying Christ as Revealed in
Philippians – Week 1*

Riches from the Ministry

*The Importance of Living Christ
by Walking According to the
Spirit – Chapter 4*

Scripture Reading

Rom. 8:4, 9; John 15:4-5; Gal. 2:20

Announcements

❖ 2023 December Semiannual Training

- o Date: December 25 through December 30
- o Location: Living Stream Ministry Campus, MCC
- o Registration Donation: Live \$205; Video \$130 due on **October 29**.
- o Registration Fee can be sent through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: register@churchinphoenix.org. Indicate on the memo line "2023 December Training".
- o Registration form:
- o <https://tinyurl.com/cipregisterDecember23>

❖ 2023 International Thanksgiving Blending Conference

- o Dates: November 23 through November 26
- o Location: Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 Olive Street, Dallas, TX 75201
- o Special Group Rate: \$119.00 USD/per night plus tax for sgl, dbl, trpl, & qdrple occupancy rooms.
- o Reservation: please call 1-800-228-9290 and request the Living Stream Ministry group rate.
- o For online reservations at the special group rate: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50571223>

❖ Blending Lord's Day Meeting

- o Date: October 15, 2023
- o Place: 1619 S Hardy Tempe, AZ 85281

❖ SCYP Fall Conference

- o Junior High Conference: October 13-15, 2023
Registration due date: October 1, 2023; Cost: \$80
- o High School Conference: October 27-29, 2023
Registration due date: October 15, 2023; Cost: \$80

❖ 2024 International Chinese-speaking Blending Conference in Taipei, Taiwan

- o Dates: February 10-11, 2024
- o Saints attending the conference should be registered corporately by church, region, or country only. Registration donation is \$150.00 USD, which covers hospitality during the conference.

❖ Offerings

- o Please send your offerings through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: offerings@churchinphoenix.org.

Riches from the Ministry

...The last message that the Lord gave to His disciples before His crucifixion is recorded in John 14—16, and the focus of this last message is in chapter 15, which uses the illustration of the vine. In verse 5 the Lord said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."...These words are simple, but their significance is profound.

The vine is Christ the Son, who is the embodiment of the Triune God. As branches in the vine, the believers are members of Christ (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Eph. 5:30). The vine in John 15 is the universal new man, of which Christ is the Head and all the believers are the members (Eph. 2:15). Because the believers are branches of Christ, who embodies the Triune God, we may also say that the believers are the branches of the Triune God. We branch out the Triune God.

To teach that we branch out the Triune God according to John 15 is not to teach that we are God as an object of worship. Because we were born of Adam, we are the branches of Adam. When we have children, we continue to branch out Adam. We began as branches of Adam, but we were grafted into Christ (Rom. 11:24). This grafting was another birth [John 1:12]...Because we have been born of God, we are the offspring of God. As such, we should branch out God. If we walk according to the flesh, we branch out Adam, but if we walk according to the spirit, we branch out God.

In John 15 the Lord charged us only to abide in Him (v. 4). All the life and activity of the branches come from their abiding in the vine. As long as the branches abide in the vine, the leaves, blossoms, and fruit will spontaneously come forth. Therefore, the Lord emphasized not fruit-bearing but abiding. The crucial point is our abiding in Christ. We do not need to struggle to bear fruit, for fruit-bearing is an issue of our abiding in Christ. As long as we abide in Christ, the other experiences of the normal Christian life will automatically follow. Therefore, our unique need is to abide in Christ.

The mutual abiding of the vine and the branches depicts the Triune God living in us so that we may live Him. The revelation in John 15 is essentially the same as that in Romans 8. Both reveal the focus of the universe and the center of the Bible — the Triune God lives in us so that we may live Him. This should also be the focus of our Christian life.

All we need to do is to live the Triune God; everything else will be a spontaneous issue of our living the Triune God...The experiences of the subjective death of Christ, the resurrection life, and the spiritual gifts are scriptural, but these experiences should be the spontaneous issue of the Triune God living in us and our living Him. We may use our physical body as an illustration. If our heart is not pumping, we cannot cause our members to function artificially. However, if our heart is pumping, we do not need to teach the nose to breathe, the ears to listen, or the eyes to see, for all our members will function spontaneously. The "heart" of the Christian life is the Triune God living in us and our living Him. As long as we live the Triune God by walking according to the spirit, all the other experiences of the normal Christian life,...will spontaneously come forth.

The vine is Christ, who has become the life-giving Spirit, the consummation of the processed Triune God. Therefore, to abide in the vine is to walk according to the mingled spirit. Our experience tells us that as long as we walk according to the spirit, all the other experiences of the normal Christian life, such as bearing the cross and participating in the power of the resurrection life, will spontaneously issue forth. We do not need to endeavor or exercise our human effort. We need only to walk according to the mingled spirit, which is the practical way to live God and to allow God to live in us.

Romans 8:9 says that the Spirit dwells in us. When we walk according to the spirit [Rom. 8:4], we allow the Triune God to make His home in, settle down in, take possession of, and occupy our entire inner being...In a sense, it is difficult to know when we are walking according to the spirit, but it is easy to know when we are not walking according to the spirit. When our body functions normally, we do not have much feeling. We do not sense that our stomach is digesting normally. If we feel our stomach, this means that something is abnormal. Similarly, as long as we are walking according to the spirit, we will live a normal Christian life without much feeling. However, we have a clear negative feeling when we are not walking according to the spirit so that we know to stop and turn to the spirit.

The focus of the Bible is that the processed Triune God lives in us so that we may live Him. Our need is simply to live Him by walking according to the spirit. We have a mingled spirit, which is composed of our regenerated spirit and the all-inclusive Spirit...If we walk according to this wonderful mingled spirit, every other experience of the normal Christian life will spontaneously come forth. All the saints today need this kind of life. We need to take the lead to pursue a daily life of walking according to the mingled spirit so that we can minister such a life to others. (Lee, *The Importance of Living Christ by Walking According to the Spirit*, Chapter 4).