
Church in Campbell Weekly News

April 15, 2012 Issue 12- 16

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in oneness!

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in oneness (Psa. 133:1). Behold! The oneness is visible, practical, something that you can see! The saints living together, the brothers' and the sisters' house, the families of the saints – behold, it is so good! How good? You don't know how good – it is inestimable, you can't estimate it! The church life practically in the saints living together is the practical living in Zion – Psalm 132 is on the vision of Zion, and Psalm 133 is on the church living!

The church living from house to house

The church life is not merely a meeting life, it is not a religion, but it is day to day, house to house (Acts 2:42), saints living together! The church life is a demonstration and manifestation of our living in oneness! According to Eph. 4, which speaks about the practical church life, we already have the oneness of the Spirit, now we need to keep it! As long as you are saved believer, you have received this Spirit, which Himself is oneness. Now we need to keep the oneness in the church life! Here the Lord pours out the blessing...

Inestimable goodness and incalculable pleasantness

How good? – inestimable! How pleasant? – incalculable! We are in the person of Christ and we are in the place as the ground of oneness! Our oneness is based on the person of Christ and on the principle that it is not matter of HOW / WHAT we practice, but on the fact that we all are commonly holding the same ground, the ground of oneness! We are in the church life for the Person of Christ and for the Oneness, not focusing on liking / not liking other people! We want to keep the oneness of the Spirit for the pouring out of the Lord's blessing!

the ointment flowing down on the saints in oneness

The Lord Jesus prayed in John 17 for the oneness, He accomplished it on the cross, in Eph. 2 He became our peace, and the oneness is now in the Spirit! This is the genuine all-inclusive oneness! When we keep the oneness of the Spirit, the ointment flows from the Head, Christ, upon every member of the Body. In the church life we learn to speak words of grace to one another (Eph. 4:29-30), seasoned with salt. We learn to turn to our spirit and not grieve the Spirit of God. We learn to keep the oneness with any cost. And God gives the blessing!

Everything with God is NOT overnight, right away, or the next day – it is gradual, and our church life is gradual. It is not a meeting life but a church life, 24/7, Monday through Monday... Gradually, as you are in the practical church life, you sense the grace there! The ointment does not flow instantly or quickly – it takes time. The Spirit as the consummation of the Triune God is gently flowing down gradually from the Head to the beard, to the garments, to every member of the Body, slowly anointing the saints!

What is it so good about the church life?

What is it so good about the church life? What is it so good about brothers living together? It is **the Triune God!** Here we are fellow partakers, joint partakers, of the grace of life! We don't insist on being right, but we obey the teaching of the anointing within (1 John 2:27) which teaches us to abide in Him! No matter what you say / what happens, the Triune God paints you with all the elements that are compounded in the Spirit! You may insist on something – as long as you're in the church life, you are painted, and the ingredients of the processed and consummated Triune God are applied to you!

The ground of our oneness is simply God Himself – we are the church in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes 1:1-2). We agree with one another not because our disposition matches but we agree in the divine dispensing by keeping the oneness of the Spirit! It is not a doctrinal oneness, and it is not according to our preference! We are in God and in God we are one! What causes us to be One is being in God by being in our mingled spirit!

Our Christian living is the living of grace

We just enjoy Christ as grace and we experience Him as grace! In the New Testament we see that **grace** is super-abounding, we are saved by grace, we stand in grace, comforting grace is descending, we come to the throne of grace, there's all grace, the grace is multiplying abundantly, there's greater grace through humility, there's sufficient grace, God is the God of all grace, we are good stewards of the varied grace of God, our speaking is with grace, there's surpassing grace, and there's the abundance of grace! Hallelujah, grace as dew is here in the church life, where the brothers dwell together in oneness!

(from <http://www.agodman.com>)

Dealing with our heart when we come to the Word

There are at least seven items that we recently enjoyed concerning our heart and dealing with our heart so that it may be proper and pure when we come to the Word of God. Of course, these items are not only for when we read the Bible, but even in our daily life [we need to deal with our heart continually](#) to have a good heart, a pure heart, even a heart that loves the Lord and loves man. Here are at least 7 points related to the condition of our heart in coming to the Word of God and how can we deal with our heart.

1. **No exercise of heart** – if we do not exercise our heart when we read the Bible, we will not receive help when we come to the Word of God. You may read the Bible regularly out of a sense of duty, according to a schedule, but the real help comes when you have a heart to read the Bible. *Lord, give us a heart for Your Word! [Cause our heart to love the Word](#) and love reading Your Word!*
2. **Having a divided heart** – if we love many things, our heart is divided, and even reading the Word will not help you. Don't come to the Word half-heartedly because if you do, you may not receive the blessing from the Lord. We need to learn to deal with our heart that it may be single and pure, so that when we come to the Word of God we would come with our whole heart and with a single heart!
3. **A lack of heart** – this is a serious problem, having no heart to come to the Word of God. We may come to read the Bible – even as believers – but we may be like “dead wood”, to which nothing happens no matter how much you try to impart life to it. *Lord, cause us to have a living and loving heart for You when we come to Your Word! Give us an appetite for the Word and a love for the Bible!*
4. There can be **coverings, hindrances, and frustrations** when we come to the Word. There may be problems related to certain things that cover you, frustrate you, or hinder you. An unconfessed sin that possesses you will hinder you from receiving the Lord's blessing. Being unwilling to forgive someone who offends you is a sin, and if we refuse to forgive, we will not receive any help! We need to [deal with anything in our heart that is negative](#) or causes any separation between us and the Lord.
5. The Bible demands that **we put ourselves aside**, humble ourselves, put aside our self-confidence and self-assurance. We shouldn't have the attitude that, “I heard that”, “I read that”, “I've been there”... – NO! *Lord, I humble myself when I come to Your Word. Have mercy on us, Lord!* We should not presume to have the assurance that we have no problems with the

Lord; rather, [we should humble ourselves before Him](#) to receive new light from Him.

6. The reason we receive no light is that we have **too much confidence in ourselves**. *O, Lord, I have no confidence in myself, and I don't want to insist on anything! I open to You, Lord, and I want to simply receive from You!* It is crucial that we would humble ourselves before the Lord and not insist on our own opinions, concepts, past experiences, or previous knowledge... We need to ask the Lord for His mercy so that His word would be full of light to us.
7. We need to **open and use our entire being** – body, soul, and spirit – when we come to the Word of God. We need to use our eyes to read, our mouth to sound out what we read, our mind to understand the reading, our emotions to love the Word, our will to take God's way in His word, and our spirit to be strengthened and nourished! When we properly [exercise our whole being](#) in coming to the Word we will receive much light and life supply from the Lord!

=====

Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray for the blending and one accord among the saints
- Pray for the burden how to raise up spiritual children at home
- Pray for YP that they will be companions with one another to pursue the Lord together.
- Pray for the English-speaking testimony and gospel preaching on West Valley College campus.
- For daily exercise in GOW training: prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth and attend Lord's day meeting on time.

Announcement

- ITERO Re-speaking: 4-6pm on 4/22, at San Jose meeting hall, 124 S 11th Street.
- 4/21, GOW training at Santa Clara meeting hall
- Morning Revival: Crystallization study of Psalms Message 22.
- YP Pursuing of Bible Study: John Correspondence course.
- Audio and outlines of the messages from Parents and Children/YP Serving Ones Conference are available at <http://thechurchinsanjose.org/archives>.
- Prayer meeting Tuesday (4/17) at Brother Liu's house.
- Summer Training 7/2~7, Registration deadline 5/1, please sanctify the time.
- Sixth grade conf. 5/4~6, Bible Camp 6/18~22, SST for YP 7/22~27, please sanctify the week.