

Blending Fellowship

- I. The Purpose of the Blending:
 - A. The eternal economy of God--1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 1:10; 3:9-10:
 - 1. To produce an organic Body to be an organism to God for His increase and expression.
 - 2. By God Himself becoming man that man may become God.
 - B. The local churches—Eph. 1:22-23:
 - 1. Not the goal of God's economy.
 - 2. But a procedure to reach God's goal.
 - C. The universal Body of Christ:
 - 1. The blending of all the local churches in the divine life.
 - 2. Consummating in the New Jerusalem as the unique organism for the processed and consummated Triune God's eternal increase and expression.
- II. The Need of the Blending:
 - A. The need of the blending for the building up of the Body of Christ--1 Cor. 10:17; 12:24; Lev. 2:4
 - B. The Body of Christ Being Absolutely in the Resurrection Life of Christ.
- III. The Significance of the Blending:
 - A. Not an organization of any nature.
 - B. Not a system in any way.
 - C. Not a kind of unification in the outward practices.
 - D. But an organic building of the God-men who are perfected in life as the representatives of a local church, as Zion within Jerusalem, and who live the reality of the Body of Christ.
- IV. The unique oneness of the universal Body of Christ—Eph. 4:3-6:
 - A. The unique oneness of the universal Body of Christ is of the Spirit, which oneness believers should not break but keep diligently in the uniting bond of peace—v. 3.
 - B. In the whole universe there is only one unique Body of Christ, with the Triune God as its contents—vv. 4-6:
 - 1. The one Spirit as the essence of its contents.
 - 2. The one Lord as the element of its contents.
 - 3. God the Father as the source of its contents, who is over all and through all and in all triunely.
 - C. The blending of the universal Body of Christ:
 - 1. God has blended the Body together (1 Cor. 12:24):
 - a. The blending of all the individual members of the Body of Christ.
 - b. The blending of all the churches in certain districts.
 - c. The blending of all the co-workers.
 - d. The blending of all the elders.
 - 2. Such a blending is not social but the blending of the very Christ whom the individual members, the district churches, the co-workers, and the elders enjoy, experience, and partake of.

3. For the building up of the universal Body of Christ (Eph. 1:23) to consummate the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2) as the final goal of God's economy according to His good pleasure (Eph. 3:8-10; 1:9-10).
- V. Reigning in life in imitating the apostle to bring the local churches into the fellowship of the Body of Christ—Rom. 14:3; 15:7-9, 25-33:
- A. Not despising or judging others in their doctrines or practices according to doctrinal concepts, religious practices, and anything that is unrelated to our basic faith.
 - B. But receiving people according to God's receiving, not being more narrow than God, thereby demonstrating and maintaining the oneness of the Body of Christ, and receiving people according to the Son of God, according to God, not according to doctrine or practice, thus maintaining a condition of absolute peace, smoothness, and order, without any deviation and discord, in the fellowship of the Body of Christ to the glory of God (14:3; 15:7); Christ being a servant of the circumcision to fulfill and confirm all the promises God gave to their fathers and a servant of the Gentiles so that they may glorify God for His mercy (15:8-9).
- VI. Reigning in life in following in the apostle's footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ—Rom. 16:
- A. Following in the apostle's footsteps to bring us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ—vv. 1-16, 21-24, 20.
 - B. Carrying out the mystery kept in silence in the times of the ages concerning the complete salvation of God in the fulfillment of the eternal economy of God for the Gentiles to have the obedience of faith unto glory to the only wise God through Jesus Christ—vv. 25-27.
- VII. The Local Churches:
- A. A local church is the God-called-out people gathered together in a locality—a city, a town, or a village.
 - B. All the local churches are the one Body of Christ separated by the localities of their existence, but still expressing the same one Body, not respectively but corporately.
 - C. The local churches are autonomous in business affairs but not in the testimony for Christ and in the fellowship of the Spirit. The testimony for Christ and the fellowship of the Spirit should be not only local but also universal. In such matters all the local churches are identical in nature and in function, as illustrated by the seven golden lampstands.
 - D. Hence, the neighboring local churches should be clustered as much as possible in the blending way for the spiritual benefits in the mutual building up of the Body of Christ, as the Lord Jesus clustered the seven neighboring churches in Asia.
 - E. Such clustering stirs up the neighboring churches in mutual love, mutual care, mutual intercession, and mutual shepherding.
 - F. Such clustering renders a stronger testimony for Christ by the churches in the eyes of the unbelievers, thus speeding up their salvation.

- VIII. One Body:
- A. The local churches:
 1. Many in existence.
 2. Still one Body universally in element—Eph. 4:4.
 - B. The secret in practicality:
 1. The one accord in the local churches—Phil. 1:27b; 2:2.
 2. The oneness in the universal Body—Eph. 4:3; John 17:11, 21-23.
 - C. The unique relationship, fellowship, and blending of all the local churches:
 1. As much as practicality allows.
 2. Without boundaries of states, provinces, or nations.
 - D. The clustering and the moving together of neighboring churches:
 1. As much as possible.
 2. Without the abolishing of the local administrations in business affairs.
 - E. The practices of the Lord and the apostle:
 1. The Lord's blending the seven churches in Asia into one by sending them one total epistle respectively and collectively with the whole book of Revelation—Rev. 1:4, 11; chs. 2—3.
 2. The apostle Paul's blending the two churches in Colossae and Laodicea as one by sending them epistles in common—Col. 4:16.
 3. The apostle Paul's practice of the fellowship of the Body among the churches in his greetings—Rom. 16:1-16, 20-24.
 - F. All the local churches on the entire globe should be absolutely one:
 1. By being:
 - a. In the oneness of the Spirit.
 - b. In the one accord of our spirit, soul, and mind.
 2. In the realm of:
 - a. The growth of life for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
 - b. The preaching of the gospel.
 - c. The spreading of the Lord's recovery.
 - d. The building up of the Body of Christ.
 - e. The accomplishment of God's eternal economy.
 - G. For the Lord's move in His recovery both locally and universally, we all need to be:
 1. Body-conscious in one accord.
 2. Body-centered in oneness.

Further Reading: Practical Points Concerning Blending, chs. 1-3; The Divine and Mystical Realm, ch. 6; The Experience of God's Organic Salvation Equaling Reigning in Christ's Life, ch. 6; 1993 Blending Conference Messages concerning the Lord's Recovery and Our Present Need, ch. 2; One Body and One Spirit, ch. 1