

The
ONE NEW
MAN

2012 International Blending Conference
Baarlo, The Netherlands
26-28 October 2012

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MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday 26 October

19:30 – 21:30 Meeting One

Saturday 27 October

10:00 – 12:00 Meeting Two

15:30 – 17:30 Meeting Three

19:30 – 21:30 Meeting Four

Lord's Day 28 October

9:15 – 10:00 Lord's Table

10:00 – 12:00 Meeting Five

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE ONE NEW MAN

Message One

The One New Man and God's Eternal Purpose

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:9, 11; 3:9; Rom. 8:29; 2 Tim. 1:9; Gen. 1:26; Eph. 2:15-16;
4:22-24

- I. **The church, the Body of Christ, is the one new man to accomplish God's eternal purpose—Eph. 1:9, 11; 3:9; Rom. 8:29; 2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 2:15-16; 4:22-24:**
 - A. The emphasis on the church being the Body of Christ is on life, whereas the emphasis on the church being the one new man is on the person.
 - B. As the Body of Christ the church needs Christ as its life; as the one new man the church needs Christ as its person.
- II. **God's intention in His creation of man was to have a corporate man to express Him and to represent Him—Gen. 1:26:**
 - A. God's creation of man in Genesis 1 is a picture of the new man in God's new creation; this means that the old creation is a figure, a type, of the new creation—Eph. 2:15; 4:24.
 - B. God created man in His own image and then gave man His dominion—Gen. 1:26:
 1. *Image* refers to God's positive intention—that man would bear God's image for His expression.
 2. *Dominion* refers to God's negative intention—that man would have God's dominion to represent Him to deal with His enemy.
 - C. Eventually, the church as the one new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold purpose of expressing God and dealing with God's enemy.
- III. **The one new man is a warrior fighting against God's enemy—Eph. 6:10-20:**
 - A. The warrior is not a status of the church but an aspect of the church as the new man.
 - B. The new man in the new creation has the twofold obligation of bearing God's image to express Him and of fighting against God's enemy.
 - C. The one new man fulfills God's purpose to express God and to fight against God's enemy for God's dominion, God's kingdom—Gen. 1:26.
 - D. The church as the corporate new man is the warrior, and the believers together make up this new man:
 1. Only the corporate new man as the warrior can wear the whole armor of God; no individual believer can wear it—Eph. 6:11, 13.
 2. We must fight the spiritual warfare not individually but in the Body, in the one new man.
- IV. **The one new man was created through Christ's death on the cross—Eph. 2:15-16:**
 - A. The new man was created by Christ with two kinds of materials—the redeemed created man and the divine element; on the cross Christ put these materials together to produce a new man.

- B. In the creating of the new man, first our natural man was crucified by Christ, and then through the crossing out of the old man, Christ imparted the divine element into us, causing us to become a new entity—Rom. 6:6; 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - C. The one new man created through the creating death of Christ equals the Body formed in Christ's resurrection and ascension; hence, *the one new man* and *the Body* are synonymous terms and may be used interchangeably—Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 2:19; 3:10-11.
- V. The Bible reveals that the one new man is not an individual but a corporate, universal man—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11:**
- A. The one new man is a corporate God-man, the aggregate of all the God-men.
 - B. We, the believers in Christ, are all one with Christ to be the new man; we all are parts of the one new man—vv. 10-11:
 1. There are many believers, but there is only one new man in the universe.
 2. All the believers are components of this one corporate and universal new man.
 - C. The phrase *in Himself* in Ephesians 2:15 indicates that Christ was not only the Creator of the one new man but also the sphere in which and the essence with which the one new man was created.

Message Two

The One New Man and the Lord's Recovery

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:15-18, 27; 2:2-3, 8-9, 17; 3:1, 3-4, 10-11

- I. God's goal in His recovery is to recover Christ as everything to us—1 Cor. 1:9, 30; 2:2; 3:11; 12:12; Col 2:2-3, 8-9, 17; 3:4, 10-11:**
 - A. God's intention is to make Christ His Son the center of His economy and also to make Him everything to all the believers—1:18; 2:17.
 - B. God has determined that in His economy one person—His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ—must be everything—Matt. 17:5.
 - C. In the recovery the Lord is recovering Christ Himself in our experience—Gal. 1:15a, 16a; 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:17a; Phil. 1:20-21a.
 - D. In His recovery the Lord is seeking to recover the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit who imparts Himself into the believers and makes them His living Body, the one new man—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Tim. 4:22a; Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 2:15.
- II. What is being recovered today is God's economy, which is centered on God's unique work—to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them—Eph. 3:16-17a:**
 - A. We must have a clear vision of God's economy and be governed, controlled, and directed by this vision—Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19.
 - B. We are here to carry out God's economy in His recovery, which is absolutely different from today's religion and which cannot be reconciled with Christianity.
- III. The goal of the Lord's recovery is to bring forth the one new man—Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; Col. 3:10-11:**
 - A. What the Lord has been doing, and what He is now doing, in His recovery is bringing forth the one new man with Himself as the life and the person for God's expression—Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:4, 10-11.
 - B. The one new man will usher in the kingdom of God and will bring Christ, the King, back to this earth—Rev. 11:15.
- IV. What was divided and scattered in the old man was fully recovered in the new man—Gen. 11:5-9; Acts 2:5-12; Col. 3:10-11:**
 - A. In the old man, man was divided and scattered, but in the new man, man is gathered and made one.
 - B. In the world the more different and individualistic a person is, the better; this is contrary to God's economy, which is to gather, to unite, and to make one.
 - C. To put off the old man is to put off the divided and scattered man; to put on the new man is to put on the gathered and one new man—Eph. 4:22, 24.
 - D. In the one new man all of us are one man; the requirement that everyone be only one man is exceedingly high—2:15:
 1. For the existence of the one new man, we need to rise up together to take Christ as our person—Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17a.
 2. Those who are gifted should take this as their goal and perfect the saints in taking Christ as their person—4:11-13.

V. Now is the time for God to accomplish His purpose to perfect the new man, who will come into full existence on earth—Eph. 4:24:

- A. The world situation has been raised up for the goal of the one new man:
 - 1. Everything that the Lord is doing in the present age is to usher in the practical existence of the one new man.
 - 2. The advances of civilization and technology are not merely for the world but are for the one new man.
 - 3. Now there is the possibility that the saints in all the localities in their environmental circumstances will become the one new man.
- B. In the last days of this age, before the Lord will be able to return, we must see the one Body and the one new man—1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:4; 2:15; 4:24.
- C. When the one new man is perfected, that will be the time of the Lord's coming, and the perfected new man will be His bride—Rev. 19:7.

Message Three

The Constitution of the One New Man

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15; Col. 1:18, 27; 2:17; 3:4, 10-11

- I. God's intention in His economy is that Christ be everything; therefore, it is crucial for us to see that God wants nothing but Christ and that in the eyes of God nothing counts except Christ—Matt. 17:5; Col. 1:18; 2:2, 17; 3:4, 10-11:**
- A. God's intention is to make Christ His Son the center of His economy and also to make Him everything to the believers—1:18; 2:17.
 - B. God has determined that in His economy one person—His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ—must be everything—Matt. 17:5.
 - C. God's economy is to work the all-inclusive Christ into us—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:11.
 - D. In the recovery the Lord is recovering Christ Himself in our experience—Gal. 1:15a; 16a; 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:17a; Phil. 1:20-21a.
 - E. In His recovery the Lord is seeking to recover the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit who imparts Himself into the believers as their life and their everything and makes them His living Body, the one new man—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Tim. 4:22a; Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 2:15.
- II. We need to see that the church is the one new man and that in this new man Christ is all; we have no place—Col. 3:10-11:**
- A. The one new man is not a movement and is not an organization—the one new man is a *man*—Eph. 2:15; 4:24.
 - B. There is no natural person in the one new man, and there is no possibility, no room, for any natural person—v. 10:
 - 1. No matter what kind of person we may be, as far as the one new man is concerned, we all are nobodies.
 - 2. Although many different kinds of people make up the one new man, all are part of Christ; there are no longer the natural persons.
 - 3. In the one new man there is only one person—the all-inclusive Christ—2:17; 3:4, 11.
 - 4. The one new man is just Christ—Christ spreading and Christ enlarged.
 - C. The new man is uniquely one—one in Christ and one with Christ; we are one by Christ and through Christ—2:15; Col. 3:11:
 - 1. If we are not in Christ, we have no share, no part, in the new man; rather, we are through with the new man.
 - 2. If we are in Christ but do not live Christ, we have a problem related to the new man.
 - D. Apart from being in Christ, we could not have been created into one new man, because in ourselves we do not have the divine essence, which is the element of the new man—Eph. 2:15:
 - 1. Only in the divine essence and with the divine essence were we created into the one new man; it is possible to have this essence only in Christ.
 - 2. Christ Himself is the essence of the new man; hence, in Himself He created the two, the Jews and the Gentiles, into one new man.
 - 3. In the one new man Christ is all because He is the essence with which the new man was created; therefore, the one new man is Christ.

- E. The one new man comes into being as we are saturated, filled, and permeated with Christ and replaced by Him through an organic process—2 Cor. 3:18:
 - 1. The new man is Christ in all the saints permeating us and replacing us until all natural distinctions have been removed and everyone is constituted of Christ—Col. 3:11.
 - 2. The all-inclusive Christ must be wrought into us organically until He replaces our natural being with Himself—Eph. 3:17a; Gal. 4:19.
- F. In the one new man, Christ is all the members and is in all the members—Col. 3:11:
 - 1. The Christ who dwells in us is the constituent of the one new man—1:27; 3:11.
 - 2. Because Christ is all the members of the new man, there is no room in the new man for any race, nationality, culture, or social status—v. 10.
 - 3. In order for us to experience the reality of Christ being all the members of the new man, we need to take Christ as our life and person and live Him, not ourselves—Gal. 2:20; Phil 1:20-21a:
 - a. If Christ is the living of all the members of the one new man, then in reality only He will be in the new man.
 - b. When all the saints live Christ, then in a real and practical way Christ will be all the members in the new man.
 - 4. It is very significant that Paul said both that Christ is all and that He is in all—Col. 3:11:
 - a. We should not think that because Christ is all the members of the one new man, we are nothing and are not needed.
 - b. The fact that Christ is in all the members of the new man indicates that the members continue to exist—v. 11.

Message Four

Taking Christ as our Person to Live the Life of the New Man

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; 3:17a; Col. 1:27; 3:4, 10-11

I. For the new man we all need to take Christ as our person—Eph. 2:15; 3:17a:

- A. Christ is both the life of the Body and the person of the new man—Col. 3:4; Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. The church is the Body, and this Body needs Christ to be in it as life.
 - 2. The church is also the one new man, and this one new man needs Christ to be in him as his person.
- B. The new man is not about members (Rom. 12:4-5) but about the person; therefore, we all need to ask, “Who is my person—I or the Lord Jesus?”
- C. In the one new man the natural man has no place; we all have no place in the new man, for here Christ is all and in all—Col. 3:10-11.
- D. Christ is in all of us, so we all have only one person—1:27; Eph. 3:17a.
- E. What God cares for is whether we live by Christ and take Christ as our person—John 6:57b; Phil 1:21a; Col. 3:4; Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. We should not only eat Christ’s riches in order to take them and assimilate them into our being; we should also allow Christ to be our person—vv. 8, 17a.
 - 2. We should take Christ not only to be our life but also to be our person.
- F. What is first is not taking Christ as our life but taking Christ as our person:
 - 1. If we take Christ as our person, we will surely take Him as our life—1 John 5:11-12; Col. 3:4.
 - 2. If we take Christ as our person, then we will be able to grow and mature—2:19; Eph. 4:13-16:
 - a. Taking Christ as our person is for the growth of the new man.
 - b. Taking Christ as our life is for the increase of the measure of the stature of the Body.

II. When we live our life by taking Christ as our person, especially in making decisions, our living will be the living of the new man—John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 17:4; Rom. 15:32; James 4:13-15:

- A. Whereas the Body is for moving, the new man is for living, and eighty to ninety percent of our living is in making decisions—Phil. 1:21-26.
- B. In the new man we take Christ as our person to make plans and to decide how we should live—Rom. 15:32.
- C. If we take Christ as our person, we will not decide anything in our life by ourselves—Philem. 14:
 - 1. Once we see that we are a part of the one new man, we will not be able to decide things merely by ourselves.
 - 2. Since we are part of the new man, our decisions and our living should not be ours; they should be the decisions and living of the corporate new man.
 - 3. The living of the new man is a corporate living; therefore, our decisions are corporate decisions and not our personal decisions—1 Cor. 4:19.

III. The apostle Paul is a pattern of taking Christ as the person—1 Tim. 1:16:

- A. “It pleased God...to reveal His Son in me”—Gal. 1:15a, 16a.
- B. “I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me”—2:20a.
- C. “My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you”—4:19.
- D. “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”—3:27.
- E. “That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith”—Eph. 3:17a.
- F. “God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus”—Phil. 1:8.
- G. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”—2:5.
- H. “For also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ”—2 Cor. 2:10b.
- I. “That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit”—Rom. 8:4.

Message Five

Practicing the Church Life in the Consciousness of the One New Man

Scripture Reading: Col. 3:10-11; 4:7-17

I. In Colossians 4:7-17 we have a practical illustration of the revelation of the one new man and of the consciousness of the one new man:

- A. Both the saints in Colossae and Paul and those with him were members of the one new man in actuality and had the consciousness of the one new man.
- B. Paul's word regarding the reading of letters proves that there was no difference between the church in Laodicea and the church in Colossae; his word implies fellowship, oneness, harmony, and intimate contact—v. 16.
- C. In spite of all the differences among nationalities, races, and classes, there was on earth in a practical way the one new man created in Christ Jesus; there were not merely local churches in various cities—there was the one new man in a real and practical way.

II. If we are conscious of the one new man, we will realize that all the local churches in the different countries are one new man—Eph. 2:15, 21-22:

- A. All the churches are not merely individual local churches but are the one new man—Col. 3:10-11; 4:15-16:
 - 1. We cannot say that each local church is a new man; rather, all the local churches on earth are the one new man.
 - 2. The one new man is a matter not merely of individual localities and individual churches but of all the churches on earth corporately.
- B. When the one new man has been brought into full existence, we will not speak of the differences between the churches or the jurisdiction and autonomy of the local churches—1 Cor. 1:2; 4:17; Rev. 2:1, 7a; 22:16a:
 - 1. At that time we all will be taking Christ as our person and living Christ; thus only Christ will be among us, and only Christ will be manifested—Phil. 1:20-21a.
 - 2. If we take Christ as our person and as our life, spontaneously we will all speak the same thing; then in a practical way we will be the one new man.
- C. Among the churches in the Lord's recovery, there should be no "nations"—Matt. 16:18; 1 Thes. 1:1; Rom. 16:16b; 3 John 9-10:
 - 1. The local churches are not "nations"—they are one new man—Eph. 2:15.
 - 2. We do not care to have a little "nation," an empire, in which we can be a little king; rather, we care to be in the one new man—Matt. 20:25-26a.
 - 3. There should not be several works in the Lord's recovery; all the co-workers in all the regions should do the same one work for the unique Body—Col. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10; Phil. 2:30.
- D. Since the local churches are one new man, in deciding a matter in our local church, we need to consider the churches throughout the whole earth—Rev. 22:16b; 1 Thes. 2:14; Rom. 16:4; 2 Cor. 11:28.

E. The churches will progress in the divine life to such an extent that eventually they will all be absolutely the same—Rev. 1:4, 11-12; 1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 14:33b.

III. Today is the day to have a new man constituted of all the local churches, including all the saints as one in Christ, who is all in all—Col. 3:10-11:

- A. What is here in the Lord's recovery is nothing but Christ, and this Christ is all in all; this vision will rescue us from all things other than Christ—1:18.
- B. The Lord intends to raise up His believers throughout all the world to seek Him, and when we seek Him, we will see that what He wants is the one new man expressed in the local churches—Phil. 3:7-14; Eph. 4:24.
- C. This will be the ultimate church life—a universal new man taking Christ as the person and living out Christ; this will conclude this age, usher in the kingdom, and bring the Lord back—Eph. 4:24; Phil. 1:20-21a; Rev. 11:15.

