

Message One

The Holy Life for the Church Life

Hymn 389, --

Scriptures reading:

*Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,*

*Eph 5:19 Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord.*

*Eph. 5:20 Giving thanks at all times for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father,*

*Eph. 5:21 Being subject to one another in the fear of Christ:*

*Eph. 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord;*

**I. Only by being filled in our spirit can we have a proper married life to signify the relationship of Christ and the church – Eph. 5:18-22.**

**A. To be filled with Christ unto the fullness of God causes us to overflow with Him in speaking, singing, psalming, giving thanks to God, and subjecting ourselves one to another.**

**B. Speaking, singing, and psalming:**

**1. Such speaking, singing, and psalming, giving thanks to God and subjecting ourselves one to another are not only the outflow of being filled in spirit, but also the way to be filled in spirit.**

**2. Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are not only for singing and psalming, but also for speaking to one another.**

**3. We need psalming to pour out our praise to the Lord adequately.**

**C. Giving Thanks:**

**1. Even at the worst times, we should give thanks for all things to God our Father.**

**2. To be in His name is to be in His Person, in the Lord Himself.**

**D. Subject to one another in the fear of Christ:**

**1. Being subject to one another is also the way to be filled in spirit with the Lord and also the overflow of being filled.**

**2. We need to keep the relationship with the members of the Body in the fear of the Head.**

**3. This submission comes from the speaking, the singing, the psalming, and the giving of thanks, which in turn come from the infilling.**

**II. A life being saturated with the Lord's word – Deut. 6:6-9:**

**A. In the Old Testament, God repeatedly charged the children of Israel that the words, which God command them, they shall repeat these words to your children – Deut. 6:6-9.**

*Deut. 6:6 And these words which I command you today, shall be upon your heart;*

*Deut. 6:7 And you shall repeat them to your children, and speak about them when you sit in your*

*house and when you journey on the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.*

*Deut. 6:8 And you shall bind them on your hand as a sign, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

*Deut. 6:9 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

- B. We need to take the time to enter into the Lord's word so that we may be soaked, constituted, and saturated by the Holy word of God to have the proper speaking in our daily living – Eph. 6:17.**

*Eph. 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,*

- C. Let the words of Christ dwell in you richly, so that God's word may become your psalms and praising to Him—Col. 3:16.**

*Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with praise in your hearts to God.*

### **III. A miniature of the church life—John 12:1-3.**

*John 12:1-3 Then Jesus, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Therefore they made Him a supper there; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of the ones reclining at table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of ointment, of very valuable pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.*

- A. Produced by the resurrection life – Lazarus – John 11:43-44.**

*John 11:43-44 And when He had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, Lazarus, come out! And he who had died came out, bound hand and foot with cloths, and his face was bound about with a handkerchief. Jesus said to them, Loose him and let him go.*

- B. Composed of cleansed sinners – Simon the leper – Mark 14:3.**

*Mark 14:3 And while He was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as He reclined at table, a woman came, having an alabaster flask of ointment, of very costly pure nard, and she broke the alabaster flask and poured it over His head.*

- C. Outwardly afflicted – Bethany; inwardly feasting in and with the presence of the Lord – John 12:2.**

*John 12:2 Therefore they made Him a supper there; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of the ones reclining at table with Him.*

- D. Having members with different functions: serving – Martha, testifying – Lazarus, and loving – Mary.**

### **References:**

The Life-study of Ephesians, Message 51, 52, 55, 58, 95; The Home Meetings, Chapter 2; God Ordained Way to Practice the New Testament Economy, Message 8; Truth Lesson Level 3 Volume 3, Lesson 52; The Conclusion of the New Testament; Three Crucial Matters for the Increase and Building of the Church—Begetting, Nourishing, and Teaching, Message 5; Messages for Building Up New Believers, Volume 2; Bearing Remain Fruits, Message 10; The Practical and Organic Building Up of the Church; The Elders' Training, Book 07, Chapter 2; The Organic Practice of the New Way, Message 6; The Life-study of John, Message 25.

**IV. The suggested exercises for the God-man family living:**

<b>Suggested exercise</b>	<b>Detailed practices</b>
<b>A. Wake up call</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call on the Lord before you make a wake up call.</li> <li>2. Wake the child up in a gentle spirit.</li> </ol>
<b>B. Morning revival</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The whole family comes together to pray-read one verse with every one functions.</li> <li>2. Did you pray-read with joy?</li> </ol>
<b>C. Pray-read before the meals</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chew on the verse that you pray-read in the morning.</li> <li>2. Did you exercise your spirit, keep the prayer short, and pray-read with joy?</li> <li>3. Exercise to speak an appetizing word.</li> <li>4. How was the atmosphere? Was it joyful?</li> </ol>
<b>D. Accompany them doing schoolwork</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spend some time to answer the questions of their schoolwork.</li> <li>2. Help them to make a schedule for study.</li> <li>3. Check their homework and sign the home-school communication books</li> </ol>
<b>E. Home meeting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have them share what happened today, and response with the consolation, the encouragement, and the appreciation.</li> <li>2. Tell a Bible story each day (about 10 min.).</li> <li>3. Pray with them for this day. Let them pray first.</li> </ol>
<b>F. Serving Fellowship</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pray for them (bless, thank, praise, and petition).</li> <li>2. Fellowship on their behavior today and find out the guidance.</li> <li>3. Take down their happenings.</li> <li>4. Seeking for the guidance of Urim and Thummim.</li> </ol>
<b>G. Discipline</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pray with them first.</li> <li>2. Not to discipline them in anger.</li> </ol>

**Message Two**  
**The Building between Wife and Husband**

*Hymn 852*

*Scriptures reading:*

*Eph. 5:22-25 Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord; For a husband is head of the wife as also Christ is Head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also let the wives be subject to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.*

**I. A mysterious type of Christ and the church—Eph. 5:31-32:**

*Eph. 5:31-32 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.*

**A. Jehovah took one of Adam’s ribs and used it for the building of a woman. In life, nature, and form the woman was the same as the man. Therefore, Adam exclaimed, “This time it is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh”—Gen. 2:21-24.**

*Gen. 2:21-24 And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man. And the man said, This time this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called Woman Because out of Man this one was taken. Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

**B. Adam’s rib typifies the unbreakable eternal life of Christ. It is with this eternal life that the church is built up as the Bride; Christ gains the church as a match for Himself—John 19:34.**

*John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.*

**C. Husband and wife made a complete unit; this means that Christ and the church are one entity—Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:31-32.**

*Gen. 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

*Eph. 5:31-32 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.*

**II. The building between wife and husband – an aspect of the living filled in spirit unto all the fullness of God—Eph. 5:18-21:**

*Eph. 5:18-21 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit, Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord, Giving thanks at all times for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father, Being subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

**A. Wives – In the exhortations concerning married life, the apostle deals first with the wives, since the wives, like Eve in Genesis 3, more easily get out of line than the husbands—Eph. 5:22-24:**

*Eph. 5:22-24 Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord; For a husband is head of the wife as also Christ is Head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also let the wives be subject to their husbands in everything.*

- 1. Subject to their own husbands**
- 2. As to the Lord**

3. **Taking the husband as the head**
4. **In everything**
5. **Fearing the husband**

**B. Husbands—Eph. 5:25-33:**

*Eph. 5:25-33 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word, That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish. In the same way the husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his own wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church, Because we are members of His Body. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church. Nevertheless you also, each one of you, in the same way love your own wife as yourself; and the wife should fear her husband.*

1. **Loving their wives**
  - a. **In order for a husband to love his wife, he must sympathize with her.**
  - b. **If a husband realizes that his wife is the weaker vessel, he will not be demanding of her.**
2. **As Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.**
3. **As their own bodies**
  - a. **Nourishing: It means that you receive something out of the Lord to care for her need.**
  - b. **Cherishing: To care for it deeply and tenderly and to soften it through tender warmth.**
4. **Leaving father and mother and being joined to the wife as one flesh**
5. **Loving their own wives as themselves**

**III. The proper relationship between husbands and wives – 1 Peter 3:1-7:**

*1 Pet. 3:1-7 In like manner, wives, be subject to your own husbands, that even if any disobey the word, they will be gained without the word through the manner of life of their wives, Seeing with their own eyes your pure manner of life in fear. Let your adorning not be the outward plaiting of hair and putting on of gold or clothing with garments, But the hidden man of the heart in the incorruptible adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which is very costly in the sight of God. For in this manner formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, adorned themselves, being subject to their own husbands, As Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord; whose children you have become, if you do good and do not fear any terror. Husbands, in like manner dwell together with them according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to them as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

- A. **Wives to be subject to their husbands – an inspiring manner of life – 1 Peter 3:1.**
- B. **Wives should be sanctified in their adorning, abstain from fleshly lusts – 1Peter 3:3.**
- C. **The wives' adornment should be the hidden man of their heart – a meek and quite spirit – 1 Peter 3:4.**
- D. **The husbands should dwell together with their wives according to knowledge – 1 Peter 3:7.**
- E. **The husbands should assign honor to their wives – appreciate the preciousness, valuable worth, of wives.**

**IV. The practice of the building up between husbands and wives:**

- A. **The reality of loving one another is to care for him/her, enter into his/her feeling,**

**and rejoice or weep with him/her – Rom. 12:15; 13:8.**

*Rom. 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.*

*Rom. 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves the other has fulfilled the law.*

- B. Closing one's eyes to the other party's weaknesses.**
- C. Learning to accommodate – adjust ourselves to accommodate the other person by the all-fitting life within us.**
- D. Learning to appreciate the virtues of the other person, especially the complementary characteristic of him/her in the new creation.**
- E. Being polite:**
  - 1. Words**
  - 2. Dress**
  - 3. Conduct**
  - 4. Voice**
- F. Allowing love to grow.**
- G. Not being selfish.**
- H. Let the other party freedom to keep secrets and have private possessions.**
- I. The need for confession and forgiveness – keeping the united bond of peace by confessing and forgiving one another – Col 3:13, 15.**

*Col. 3:13, 15 Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive. And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you wee called in one Body, and be thankful.*
- J. Living together before the Lord.**
- K. Never criticize your spouse to others, nor compare them with others.**
- L. Instead of demanding, irritating, condemning...etc., ministering life and teaching the truth to one another—1 Pet. 4:10.**

*1 Pet. 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.*
- M. Caring for the welfare of the other person, encouraging and activating his/her organic function.**
- N. Having a long-term faith: He/she will be saved! He/she will be more and more like a brother/sister. He/she loves the Lord anyhow, and my house will serve Jehovah.**

***References:***

The Life-study of Ephesians, message 52, 53, 55; The Life-study of Genesis, message 17; The History of God in His Union with Man, Chapter 3; The Life-study of John, message 43; The Messages for Building up New Believers, message 32; The Life-study of 1 Peter, message 22, 23; The Life-study of Romans, message 37; The Life-study of Colossians, message 29; The Kingdom, Vol. 2, message 27; The Life-study of 2 Corinthians, message 42; Collected Works of Watchman Nee, The (Set 3) Vol. 49: Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), message fifteen; The Life-study of 1 Corinthians, message 41.

## Message Three

### Nurturing Children in the Discipline and Admonition of the Lord

#### Hymn 13

#### Scriptures reading:

*Psa. 127:3 Behold, children are the heritage of Jehovah, The fruit of the womb a reward.*

*Ephe 6:4 And father, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.*

*Heb. 12:5b-11 "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when reproved by Him; For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives."*

*It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons. For what son is there whom the father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all sons have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore we have had the fathers of our flesh as discipliners and we respected them; shall we not much more be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined for a few days as it seemed good to them; but He, for what is profitable that we might partake of His holiness. Now no discipline at the present time seems to be a matter of joy, but of grief; but afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been exercised by it.*

*Prov.22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; But the rod of correction will drive it far from him.*

#### **I. Children are the heritage of God, parents are the stewards of God:**

*Psa. 127:3 Behold, children are the heritage of Jehovah, The fruit of the womb a reward.*

##### **A. The consecration of the parents – as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah – Josh 24:15b.**

*Josh. 24:15b But as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah.*

##### **B. The commission which the parents are received – taking care the children for God as a steward.**

#### **II. The way in which God created man – Gen. 2:7:**

*Gen. 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.*

##### **A. To form man's body with the dust of the ground.**

##### **B. To breathe into man's nostrils the breath of life that man may have a spirit as the recipient for him to receive God and as an organ to contact God and the spiritual things –John 4:24; Rom. 1:9.**

*John. 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.*

*Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,*

##### **C. To make man a living soul that man may have a soul as his person with his personality and as an organ to contact the psychological realm.**

##### **D. To make man a tripartite being—spirit, soul, and body.**

###### **1. The spirit - an organ to contact God and as a recipient to receive and retain God.**

###### **2. The soul – this complete person is a vessel to take God as life and to express Him.**

###### **(1) The mind needs to be filled with the thoughts of God to apprehend God.**

###### **(2) The emotion needs to be filled with the love of God to love God.**

###### **(3) The will needs to be filled with the will of God, so that every decision we make will be a savor, an image, and an expression of Christ.**

###### **3. The body – it is for our living, so that we as vessels can contain God and express God.**

### **III. The characteristics of the children – closing to the original vessel that was made of God:**

#### **A. Their spirit is responsive – to contact God, to receive God, and to contain God – 2 Tim.1:3-5.**

*2 Tim. 1:3-5 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, while unceasingly I have remembrance concerning you in my petitions night and day, Longing to see you, remembering your tears, that I may be filled with joy; Having been reminded of the unfeigned faith in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded dwells also in you.*

#### **B. Their mind is open – 2 Tim. 3:15.**

*2 Tim. 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

- 1. It is pure to know God and God's desire.**
- 2. There is not much defilement.**
- 3. As from a babe Timothy had known the sacred writings.**

#### **C. Their work is pure – make themselves known by their deeds – Prov. 20:11.**

*Prov.20:11 Even a child makes himself known by his deeds, Whether his work is pure and whether it is upright.*

#### **D. They are pure, easy to receive the pure truth. They are simple, uncomplicated, and unsuspecting.**

#### **E. Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child – they are children of Adam, therefore they express Adam and live Adam by nature – Prov. 22:15.**

*Prov.22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; But the rod of correction will drive it far from him.*

### **IV. The principle of disciplining the children in the Holy Word:**

#### **A. The source of the discipline: God's love – Heb. 12:6.**

*Heb. 12:6 For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.*

#### **B. The pattern of the discipline: even though the Lord Jesus was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered – Heb. 5:8.**

*Heb. 5:8 Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered.*

#### **C. The purpose of the discipline:**

- 1. On the positive side: It activates the innate capacity, makes them to partake the divine nature – Heb. 12:10-11.**

*Heb. 12:10-11 For they disciplined for a few days as it seemed good to them; but He, for what is profitable that we might partake of His holiness. Now no discipline at the present time seems to be a matter of joy, but of grief; but afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been exercised by it.*

- 2. On the negative side: He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin – 1 Peter 4:1-2.**

*1 Peter. 4:1-2 Since Christ therefore has suffered in the flesh, you also arm yourselves with the same mind (because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin), No longer to live the rest of the time in the flesh in the lusts of men, but in the will of God.*

### **V. The practice of disciplining the children in the Holy Word:**

- A. Teaching and ruling – Deut. 6:6-9; Exo. 13:14; 1Tim. 5:10, 14; 3:4-5, 12.**  
*Deut. 6:6-9 And these words, which I command you today, shall be upon your heart; And you shall repeat them to your children, and speak about them when you sit in your house and when you journey on the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up; And you shall bind them on your hand as a sign, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes; And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,*  
*Exo.13:14 And when your son asks you in time to come, saying, What is this? You shall say to him, By strength of hand Jehovah brought us out from Egypt, from the slave house.*  
*1 Tim 5:10 Well attested for good works, if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints feet, if she has assisted the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.*  
*1 Tim 5:14 I will therefore that younger widows marry, bear children, keep house, give no opportunity to the opposer for reproach;*  
*1 Tim 3:4-5 One who manages well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (But if one does not know how to manage his own house, how will he care for the church of God?)*  
*1 Tim 3:12 Deacons must be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own houses well.*
- B. The rod of correction – to activate their conscience, so that they may recognize the fallen nature within them, and thus receive the discipline - Prov.22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15,17, 13:24.**  
*Prov. 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; But the rod of correction will drive it far from him.*  
*Prov. 23:13-14 Do not withhold correction from a child; If you beat him with the rod, he will not die. If you beat him with the rod, You will deliver his soul from Sheol.*  
*Prov. 29:15, 17 The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. Correct your son, and he will give you rest; He will also give delight to your soul.*  
*Prov. 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him chastens him early.*
- C. Transfusing the faith – 2 Tim. 1:3-5.**  
*2 Tim 1:3-5 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, while unceasingly I have remembrance concerning you in my petitions night and day, Longing to see you, remembering your tears, that I may be filled with joy; Having been reminded of the unfeigned faith in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded dwells also in you.*
- D. Sowing unto the Spirit – Gal. 6:8.**  
*Gal 6:8 For he who sows unto his own flesh will reap corruption of the flesh, but he who sows unto the Spirit will of the Spirit reap eternal life.*
- E. Do not provoke your children to anger – Eph. 6:4:**  
*Eph. 6:4 And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.*
- 1. Provoking to anger damages the children by stirring up their flesh.**
  - 2. In dealing with your children’s wrongdoings or misbehavior, you must firstly go to the cross and stay there.**
- F. Nurturing children by being a pattern – Acts 20:18-20; 1 Thess. 2:**  
*Acts. 20:18-20 And when they came to him, he said to them, You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time, Serving the Lord as a slave with all humility and tears and trials which came upon me by the plots of the Jews; How I did not withhold any of those things that are profitable by not declaring them to you and by not teaching you publicly and from house to house,*

1. **It is the parents' responsibility to set up a high standard and a proper pattern and example for their children to follow.**
  2. **However, no matter how good an example is set by the parents, how the children develop depends on God's mercy.**
- G. Nurturing them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord:**  
*Eph. 6:4 And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.*
1. **To nurture children means to bring them up, to raise them, by nourishing them.**
  2. **Raising children requires that the parents give them the needed instruction related to human life, family life, and social life.**

***References:***

The Life-study of Genesis, message 5, 10; The Life-study of Romans, message 22; The Economy of God, Message 7~9; The Life-study of Revelation, message 46; Messages for Building Up New Believers (3), message 41; Authority and Submission, message 5, 6; The Life-study of Hebrews, message 45; The Life-study of 1 Peter, message 26; The Experience and Growth in Life, message 4; The Life-study of Luke, message 41; The Spirit with Our Spirit, message 6; Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), message 33; The Life-study of Ephesians, message sixty-two; The Life-study of Galatians, message 29, 35; The Life-study of 1 Timothy, message 5.