

MESSAGE THREE

The Produce of the Riches of Christ— The Church

I. The conception and delivery of the church

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into *them* and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-2, 4a, 41

1 And as the day of Pentecost was being fulfilled, they were all together in the same place.

2 And suddenly there was a sound out of heaven, as of a rushing violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

4a And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...

41 Those then who received his word were baptized, and there were added on that day about three thousand souls.

II. The house of God

A. The dwelling place of God (rest and expression)

Ephesians 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Psalms 132:13-14

13 For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired [it] for his habitation.

14 This [is] my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

Ephesians 3:16-17a

16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith...

B. The household of God (family)

Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1 John 2:13 I write to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, young children, because you know the Father.

III. The Body of Christ

Ephesians 1:22-23a

22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

23 Which is His Body,

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

A. Taking Christ as Head

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

B. An organism filled with the life of Christ

Colossians 3:10-11

10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

C. A living entity with every member functioning in life

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:15 (Not less than a member) If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, *it is not that* because of this it is not of the body.

1 Corinthians 12:21-22 (Not more than a member)

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

IV. The fullness of the One who fills all in all

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:8

To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

V. The new man

Ephesians 2:14-16

14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,

15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,

16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Colossians 3:10-11

10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

VI. The bride of Christ (the counterpart of Christ)

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word,

27 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.

Ephesians 5:31-32

31 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.

32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.