

EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST

(1)

Message Eleven

In the Father's House—

Living in the Place Prepared for Us
through the Death and Resurrection of Christ

MC Hymns: 17, 972

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-3, 6, 10-11, 20, 23; 1:4, 14, 16; 11:25

- John 14:1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe into God, believe also into Me.
John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.
John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.
John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.
John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

I. The central thought of John 14 is that we must believe into God and thereby enter into God—v. 1:

John 14 be omitted.

John 14:1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe into God, believe also into Me.

- A. To believe in God is objective, but to believe into God is subjective; it is the subjective believing that brings us into God.
- B. It is by believing into the Lord that we enter into Him to be one with Him, to partake of Him, and to participate in all that He has accomplished for us—3:15.
John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
- C. Through believing into Christ, we have an organic union with Him and have our being merged into His so that we two may be one organically—15:4-5.
John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

II. The Father's house is a matter of the Triune God—through incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection—working Himself into the believers in order to be fully mingled with them so that He may build them up as an organism for His dwelling and expression—14:2-3, 23:

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.

- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- A. In 2:16 *My Father's house* refers to the dwelling place of God on earth, the temple; the temple is a type, or figure, of the body of Jesus, which in resurrection has been enlarged to be the Body of Christ—vv. 19-22.
- John 2:16 And to those who were selling the doves He said, Take these things away from here; do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise.
- John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
- John 2:20 Then the Jews said, This temple was built in forty-six years, and You will raise it up in three days?
- John 2:21 But He spoke of the temple of His body.
- John 2:22 When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.
- B. *My Father's house* in 14:2 is the Body of Christ, the church as the house of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15.
- John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- C. The Father's house is a divine and human incorporation of the processed and consummated God constituted with His redeemed, regenerated, and transformed elect—John 14:20.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- D. In the Father's house are many abodes—v. 2:
- John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
- The many abodes are the many members of the Body of Christ, which is God's temple—Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 3:16-17.
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- 1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- 1 Cor 3:17 If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him; for the temple of God is holy, and such are you.
- All the believers in Christ are the abodes in God's building, the Father's house; this building is the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:27.
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- E. *I go to prepare a place for you* means that the Lord would prepare a place, accomplish redemption, open up the way, and make a standing for us to enter into God—John 14:2-3, 6:
- John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
- John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- By death and resurrection the Lord Jesus paved the way and prepared the place so that

- we might be brought into God—v. 20.
 John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
2. By His death and resurrection He prepared a standing for us before God and in God; in this way He prepared a place for us in God—vv. 2-3, 6.
 John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
 John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.
 John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
3. The standing in God, being enlarged, becomes the standing in the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:27:
 Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
 Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
 Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.
 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- a. Anyone who does not have a standing, a place, in God does not have a place in the Body of Christ, which is the Father's house, the dwelling place of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22.
 Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
 Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
 Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- b. As believers in Christ, we all have a place in God and a place in the Body, and now we should live in the place prepared for us through the death and resurrection of Christ—John 14:2-3, 20; 1 Cor. 12:27.
 John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
 John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.
 John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- F. The Lord's coming brought God into man, and His going brought man into God; by this coming and going, He builds up the house of God by building God into man and man into God—John 1:14; 10:10b; 14:2-3.
 John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
 John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
 John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
 John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.
- G. By the Spirit and through His death and resurrection, the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is building an organism, the church, which is His Body and the Father's house, produced by themingling of the Triune God with His chosen and redeemed people—vv. 7-24.
 John 14:7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and henceforth you know Him and have seen Him.
 John 14:8 Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father and it is sufficient for us.
 John 14:9 Jesus said to him, Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how is it that you say, Show us the Father?

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.

John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.

John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes into Me, the works which I do he shall do also; and greater than these he shall do because I am going to the Father.

John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

John 14:15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.

John 14:22 Judas, not Iscariot, said to Him, Lord, and what has happened that You are to manifest Yourself to us and not to the world?

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

John 14:24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

H. The Father's house is built up by the constant visitation to the redeemed elect of the Father and the Son with the Spirit—v. 23.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

I. The Father's house is in three stages: the stage of God's incarnation, the stage of Christ resurrected with His believers to be built up as the church, and the consummate stage—the New Jerusalem—2:19-21; Rev. 21:2-3, 9-10.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

John 2:20 Then the Jews said, This temple was built in forty-six years, and You will raise it up in three days?

John 2:21 But He spoke of the temple of His body.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

III. The Father's house, the church, is in God the Father—John 14:2, 20; 1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1:

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

1 Thes 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 Thes 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the

Lord Jesus Christ:

- A. For the church to be in God the Father, God must become the Father to us, and we need to have a life relationship with Him—John 20:17:
John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.
1. In the New Testament *the Father* denotes the source of life—5:26.
John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;
 2. The title *God* refers to creation; the title *Father* refers to the impartation and multiplication of life—1 John 3:1.
1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
 3. God is no longer merely our Creator; He is also our Father, our Begetter, for He has begotten us with His life—John 1:12-13.
John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 4. We can call God our Father because we have been born of Him, and now, as His children, we have a life relationship with Him—Rom. 8:15-16.
Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
 5. Through His life-releasing death and life-imparting resurrection the Lord has made us one with Him; His Father is now our Father—John 20:17.
John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.
 6. By His death and resurrection the Lord Jesus has brought us into Him; since He is in the Father, we are in the Father by being in Him, the Lord Jesus—14:20.
John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- B. For the church to be in God the Father means that the church is in the One who is the unique source, the Originator and Initiator—1 Cor. 8:6:
1 Cor 8:6 Yet to us there is one God, the Father, out from whom are all things, and we are unto Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we are through Him.
1. To know God as the Father is to know that everything originates from Him and that everything proceeds from Him—Matt. 15:13; Rom. 11:36.
Matt 15:13 And He answered and said, Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted shall be rooted up.
Rom 11:36 Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
 2. In the church life the Father should be the unique source, and we all should be in His unique purpose and plan—2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 8:28.
2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

IV. We need to see the intrinsic significance of living in the church as the Father's house—John 14:2-3, 23:

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

- John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- A. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in the Triune God as life—1:4; 5:26; 6:53; 11:25; 14:6.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;
- John 6:53 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- B. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in the light—1:4; 8:12.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- C. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in resurrection—11:25.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- D. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in grace and reality—1:14, 16-17; 14:6; 16:13.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- E. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in the divine glory—17:22-23.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
- F. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in a house of prayer and worship—14:13; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24; 4:23-24.
- John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
- John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.
- John 16:23 And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Truly, truly, I say to you, Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give to you.
- John 16:24 Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be made full.
- John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
- G. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live a life of shepherding—10:10-11, 15-17; 21:15-17.
- John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

- John 10:11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
 John 10:15 Even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
- John 10:16 And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must lead them also, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one flock, one Shepherd.
- John 10:17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.
 John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
- John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
- John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
- H. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in and for God's building—2:19-21; 14:23.
- John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
 John 2:20 Then the Jews said, This temple was built in forty-six years, and You will raise it up in three days?
 John 2:21 But He spoke of the temple of His body.
 John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- I. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in the divine and mystical realm of the consummated Spirit for the keeping of oneness—7:39; 14:16-20; 16:13; 17:11, 21, 23.
- John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
 John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
 John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
 John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
 John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
 John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
 John 17:11 And I am no longer in the world; yet they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are.
 John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
 John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
- J. To live in the church as the Father's house is to live in the divine and human incorporation of the processed and consummated Triune God with the redeemed and regenerated tripartite believers—14:10-11, 20.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.
 John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.
 John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.