

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE GOD-ORDAINED WAY**

Message Seventeen

The Vital Groups (3)—The Start and the Practice

Scripture Reading:

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| S.S. 1:2-3 | Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine. Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; Your name is like ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you. |
| S.S. 1:4 | Draw me; we will run after you—The king has brought me into his chambers — We will be glad and rejoice in you. |
| Rom. 15:16 | That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit. |
| 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. |
| Acts 2:47 | Praising God and having grace with all the people. And the Lord added together day by day those who were being saved. |
| 1 Cor. 12:24 | But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked., |

I. The start of the vital groups—S.S. 1:2-4; John 15:2-5:

- A. The vital groups cannot be formed by organization.
- B. A vital group can come into being only by a saint who is desperate and absolute for the increase of the Lord's recovery.
- C. Such a desperate saint would spontaneously contact others by the Lord's leading and gain some companion or companions for him to have a vital group.
- D. They should definitely and absolutely fulfill the first four basic requirements:
 - 1. Intimate and thorough fellowship that they may be blended together.
 - 2. Thorough confession of sins, transgressions, defects, wrongdoings, etc.
 - 3. Thorough consecration of themselves and of all that they have and do to the Lord.
 - 4. Praying unceasingly that they may be brought into the infilling and the outpouring of the essential and economical Spirit.
- E. They should pick up the burden and take action to contact others, either sinners or Christians:
 - 1. Always taking care of two or three persons.
 - 2. Not expecting to have a quick result, but setting a definite goal with a strong determination to gain at least one remaining fruit yearly.
 - 3. With inexhaustible patience, unceasing intercession, and continuous labor.

II. The practice of the vital groups—Rom. 15:16; 1 Thes. 2:7; John 21:15-17:

- A. To be a laboring priest of the gospel of God—Rom.15:16:
 - 1. Before we go out to visit people with the gospel, we should have a time with the Lord.
 - 2. After such prayer, we should go and labor with our companions.
 - 3. We should give at least three hours a week to the Lord to announce Christ to people.
 - 4. We should feed them, nourish them, and cherish them constantly week after week.
 - 5. We have to do it constantly, patiently, and faithfully.
- B. Learning to cherish people in the humanity of Jesus—Luke 4:18-19; 1 Thes. 2:7:
 - 1. The first matter for a vital group is to contact people.

2. To cherish is to make people happy, comfortable, pleasant, and at ease in contacting you in every thing and in every aspect; just as Jesus did—Eph. 5:29.
- C. Learning to nourish people in the divinity of Christ—v.29; John 21:15-17:
 1. To nourish is to supply the all-inclusive Christ in the three stages of His full ministry.
 2. Nourishing others not only by speaking to them but also by propagating the ministry books.

III. The increase of the vital groups—Acts 2:47:

- A. The purpose of a vital group is for the increase, perfecting, and building up of the church—John 15:16; Acts 2:46-47; Eph. 4:12.
- B. When the number of a vital group increases to ten or more, you should split it into two groups; and teach every group to practice vitalization.
- C. The vital groups can live a normal church life, overcome the degradation of the church, constitute the Body of Christ, and consummate the New Jerusalem—Eph. 4:12-13, 16.

IV. The vital groups and the blending of the Body—1 Cor. 12:24:

- A. Clustering stirring up the neighboring churches in mutual love, mutual care, mutual intercession, and mutual shepherding—Rom. 16; 1 Cor. 16:19-21; 2 Cor. 8:1-4; Rom. 15:25-27.
- B. To reach the highest peak of the reality of the Body of Christ through the blending—John 17:21-23; Eph. 1:22-23; Rev. 1:20.