

The Crystallization

The Continuation and Propagation of the Resurrected Christ

Acts is a record of a group of people who were resurrected and ascended with Christ, having Christ within them as their life and Christ upon them as their power and authority. They lived not by themselves but by Christ as life. Moreover, they walked, acted, and worked not by their own power, way, or method but by Christ as their power, way, and method. Moreover, they realized that they were the Body, and they always acted in the Body and for the Body in the one divine stream.


This record is without an ending because the book of Acts is still being continued as the divine history within human history. The work of the Holy Spirit in preaching Christ for His propagation, multiplication, and spread through the believers of Christ is not yet complete. This continuation of the divine history within human history involves calling on the name of the Lord, suffering on behalf of the name of the Lord, and speaking in the name of the Lord, the name of Jesus. The believers live in the divine history within human history by doing everything in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body. In order to live for the Body, they reject themselves and live by Christ as the divine life in the reality of the Body of Christ. In this reality, they continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word, living in the apostolic ministry in coordination with Christ as the great High Priest in His heavenly ministry.

This coordinated move involves the Body and the Spirit: the Spirit and the Body move and act coinherently in oneness as the Body is expressed locally through the churches, the Body functions through the ministry, and the Body seeks increase through the work. In the events that are recorded in the book of Acts, there is a primary emphasis on the Body being manifested in its expression through function for increase. The Body is central to the book of Acts, and the consummated Spirit in whom the Body lives and moves is central to the realization of the reality of the Body of Christ.

In this coordinated move, the resurrected Christ is propagated and manifested as the corporate Christ. This propagation issues in genuine local churches, which are the expression of the universal, mystical Body of Christ in various cities. According to the record in Acts, when new believers were added to the church, they were added intrinsically to the Lord as a living person, thereby becoming

His enlargement, His expansion. When Saul met the glorified Jesus, he simultaneously encountered the corporate Christ, which is composed of Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body with all His members. All the believers in Christ are organically united with Him, are one spirit with Him, and are constituted with His life and element; therefore, they have become His Body, an organism to express Him. The resurrected Christ continues to be propagated through the testimony of those who are governed by the vision of the corporate Christ and who love Him, experience Him, enjoy Him, express Him, are one with Him, and live a divine-human life by their dwelling in Him and His dwelling in them. Through the life and service of such believers, Christ continues to increase through propagation, with more men and women being added to Him, and the Body continues to grow unto the building up of itself in love.

Paul's life and service were the issue of receiving a divine commission from the ascended Christ to carry out God's New Testament economy. He announced the New Testament jubilee in order to open people's eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God so that they might receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among the saints. Paul proclaimed the New Testament jubilee as a continuation of Christ's ministry on earth and in coordination with Christ's present ministry in heaven. The goal of his ministry was to make God's chosen and redeemed people members of the church as the household of God and to build up the Body of Christ, a corporate entity composed of Jewish and Gentile believers who partake of Him as their inheritance.

This corporate entity has a practical expression—churches. Churches, large and small, were established in city after city in the book of Acts. In these churches Christ ruled and reigned in life with discipline. As subjects of this reigning, these churches became the practical expression of the kingdom of God on the earth. In the practical church life the believers are priests and kings. We all expect a future kingdom, but those living a kingdom life in a local church today, a local expression of the kingdom, will not be surprised when the kingdom comes in its full manifestation, because that kingdom will have many recognizable aspects of the proper church life today. 

by the Editors