

(Continued from Part 1)

Now, your definition of what the church is. What is the church? Well, it's certainly not this abominable thing that's here on this earth made out of stone that has steeples and stained glass, and that has office hours between 11 and 12 every Sunday morning. The church is not a group of people who are gathering together living by human life. If they do that, they're going to kill one another or something terrible. Take a look at us, and you'll get some idea of what it's like when Christians get together, living by and drawing from this fallen human life of ours. No. The church is when people who have named the name of Christ, who have been impregnated with the life of Christ, and who are living by that Life, come together, who are corporately then living not by human life, but living by the Life of God and expressing corporately that Life together. God will have a people who will live by a higher Life and will express that Life. This is the gospel; this is the church. This is what the church is to be: the gathering of God's people living by a life not their own.

There's a story in the book of Acts, Acts 5. The apostles are in jail, they've had a pretty rough day, and an angel opens the jail door and escorts them out on the street. Just as he does, the angel says, Go and speak to the people in the temple all the words of *this Life*. Do you realize that those same apostles had once cowered behind locked doors, fearing death, even though they had lived with Life for three and a half or four years, been living with the Lord, and living with the Lord who lived by the Life of God had not helped. For that life form was not in them. They were living by a lower life form. But after the resurrection and after the day of Pentecost, they got a new, higher Life in them, and they were enveloped in that Life. And the day the angel told them to go and speak of *that Life*, they knew what they were doing because that Life was in them, and they lived by it.

Now watch them. They go before the Sanhedrin. They're in the Sanhedrin, in the prison, in the temple. They were proclaiming that life, and they did so unafraid. Now they didn't care. They didn't care about anything, for they had learned to live by another life, an eternal, uncreated Life that has no beginning and could not have an end. No matter what happened to them, they were becoming one with that Life. This, this Life, is what the apostles were bearing witness to. This higher form of Life is what grows them. This is what their gospel was, this is what they preached. This Life had invaded this tragic fallen earth, and this Life had come, could be implanted in them, and had been implanted in them, and they were living by it, and they were now proclaiming to others, "You need not live by a lower form of life, you can live by the Life of God, you can have that Life in you, and you can live by the Life the Lord lives by."

And so, with that message, first-century Christians became legends, and it was with that experience that went with that message. They knew something that we never heard. They experienced something that we never dreamed could be experienced, and that is that we could have that Life in us, and not only have that Life, but live by it. They were unstoppable, and why not? They were thriving on an energy and drawing from a form of Life higher than their enemies. The angels said it. *Go and bear witness to this Life*. It was a Life that naturally has joy in prison and naturally gives peace in the face of death.

Now, this is what the church is. Part of the Lord's work in our day, as He is moving in our day, is to show us how to live by His Life. If you live by His Life in the body of Christ, corporately, together with others, you will eventually be fulfilling his eternal purpose.

The Lord is saying this. I have come to give you a Life, not like the life you have now, not a life that you might see or seem to be the life of some pious Christian with a halo. You admire him and say, "This is the life." No. That is not the life of the Lord. He has said, "I have come to give you a Life *that has nothing to do with you*. It's not like you; it doesn't have your characteristics or your character. It does not give you being. It does not have your attitude. It is not like you. It does not have your outlook. It doesn't favor you in any way in any of the areas of your life. You're not used to this life, nor are you well acquainted with this life.

Yes. This Life has virtually nothing in common with the characteristics of human life. The two life forms usually, almost always, look at things totally different and go in totally different directions from one another. This Life doesn't think like, doesn't act like, and most of all does not react like your life. Nor does it consider or apprehend the way that your life considers and apprehends. This is a Life that is lived by God in light and revelation and not in the attributes of humanity. The foundation of this Life, the way this Life looks at matters, the way this Life reaches conclusions; they're totally opposed to all of your and my daily processes. This Life is not just higher but utterly different. Its values are as different as the level between a human and a little life form. From the view of this Life, its attainment, the way it sees problems, we can especially observe this in the matter of suffering. This Life does not hesitate to suffer. Everything that is in you and everything around you is in a totally different realm, different level, and from a totally different vantage point than the Life of the Lord. Third-level life is not like the Life of Divinity, for that Life is glorious.

Did Jesus say this to you? I have come not to give you a higher life, that is something neat and will cushion you from life's woes. No, I have not come to give you that. I have come to give you a form of Life known in heavenly places in realms of light. I'm not going to give you a little scrap of this Life either. Not just a taste of it. Not just enough to squeeze by on. Not even an adequate dosage. I am going to give you this higher Life to live by, pressed down and running over. I'm going to dump it on you in superabundance.

Now, what's your part? Well, your part is really very simple. Your part is to learn to live by that Life, and as you do, you won't need me. You won't need anything. All you need to do is learn to live by a Life not your own. Here, I give you all you need. Everything is in the One who lives in you.

To live by a Life not your own; now, that is wonderful, but it may be even more wonderful, and even more radical than you realize. Let's see if I can illustrate this. Have you ever seen a tree longing to become a fish? No, of course not, or a bird willing to be a horse? No, all forms of life seem to be fairly contented from all that we can observe to be what they are...except man. Why does man have a natural descent in him that he is amiss? Innately, he realizes something is awry; it is because, hold on to your chair, God never planned there to be anything

called man. I'll qualify that. That is, his intention was not to leave you or me with no more human life than we've got right now to live by...or no more than human life to live by.

Man is running around on this planet living by human life, and that was an unplanned matter. In fact, it's an unplanned disaster. God never intended for the species we call homo sapiens to live by human life. That was not his original purpose in creating it. Humanity was never intended to be a life source. God never intended man to be a life form. God intended for man to take on the life of God and become the Lord's own people, His own divine race, a race after His own kind, bearing after His own kind. That was his plan. Praise his name.

Now, I'm still not sure that you realize how radical this whole fact is. I would like to make another point about this, but it's not going to be easy. I could spend a great deal of time considering, and so could you, this very subject. What does it really mean to be a Christian? Have you ever noticed the great gulf that exists between forms of life? Each life form has little or nothing in common with forms of life above it or below it.

Now let's illustrate this. Do you think that a fish has the idea it would like to have its tail planted in soil, lift its fins toward the sky, and sit in the sun all day? The idea is ridiculous. Do you think a dog ever just longed and panted to get up in a tree and sit on eggs all day? Absurd. Well, let's take it from the other direction. Has a bird ever wanted to wallow around in a pig pen, or dig a hole and bury a bone? Would a dog enjoy listening to an opera, watching a play, or baking a cake? No, there is an awesome gulf between all major classifications of life forms. Furthermore, in the history of creation, fish life has never really shown any interest in animal life. They're hardly conscious that one another exists, and animal life has shown virtually no interest in sea life or life that exists in the air. Consider it.

Let's go further. Have you ever heard of a blackbird setting up a society to take care of elks? Have you ever seen a rhinoceros pass the hat for kittens? Each has their own patterns, their own instincts, and their own unique interests. Their own sense of things, their own values of things. All their interests are considered central to their own life form, and their interests are centered there. This is true of all species, including men. Now, I realize that we have our humanitarian societies for the protection of this and that, but that's a very minor consideration in human life.

About the only interest one life form ever shows in another life form is to learn how to stay out of its way. There is a sense within them to live at peace with one another, unless one happens to be a predator, in which case the other is very interested in staying out of the predator's way. As I said, there is a staggering leap between the fish and the bird life, and yet they are only one category separated from one another. Fish do not think like birds, nor do they travel or live like birds. They have virtually nothing in common with birds, yet a bird's life is a life form only one step higher than a fish.

Have you ever thought about the two life forms next to you, the one above you, and the one right below you? Would an angel enjoy learning calculus, running a computer, or sitting around for years trying to come up with a great new technological breakthrough, like a

better smog device for trucks? Can you see an angel doing that? It would be repulsive to an angel. Just as repulsive as it would be for you to go sniffing around the ground and stick an old bone in the dirt and cover it up with your feet. As a matter of fact, you could hardly conceive of being an angel. First of all, you wouldn't be a boy or a girl. You'd have to be neuter, and shooting into space faster than light, generating messages from heaven to earth and from earth back to the heavens again, could really get to be a drag for a human. The angels enjoy it. Well, at least two-thirds of them do, anyway. They wouldn't seriously want to become a crummy old human any more than a crummy old human would like to become a polecat.

There's a vast gulf between you and the two life forms nearest to you. The angels above and the land animals beneath. You have no interest in living the life of an animal; you never even thought about it. If you ever longed to be a little animal, it would probably put you into some kind of institution. And right now, it probably never crossed your mind.

The patterns of existence, thought, purpose, instincts, desires, and outlook are so radically different that it's inconceivable. Do you realize that you are twice removed from the life form of divinity? The life form of God is as far from you as the life form of a fish is from you, yet the Lord himself came to give you his life, that radical life, and to allow you to stop living by your life and to begin living by a life not your own, to begin living by his life. Here's one obvious fact: that event is going to produce quite a radical change in you. That's putting it mildly.

Let's see if we can begin to conceive of how radical a change this implies, and as we do, you can get some idea of just how off course we are as Christians; how ridiculous some of our understandings of what the word Christian really means. And what Christian undertakings are, or I should say, are not. Certainly, we're not talking about works here. You can't act out another life form and become that life form. This can only be done by the life form being implanted in you, and by you then drawing on that life form as a source.

Let's say that the first explorers on the South Pole, when they discovered the penguin, decided to make it into a human being. The explorers began demanding that all the penguins put on suspenders. And shoes. Sit at the table and hold a fork. Determined to make penguins into humans. Well, the penguin is terribly disinterested, and to say the least, the whole thing is not only a study in absurdity, but a total failure. The explorers insist; they tell the penguins, "Oh, there are many things you need. For instance, you have to be a democracy. We're going to teach you how to stuff a ballot and vote for a leader. You can't go on just having herd instincts."

Now remember, they're not going to make penguins act like men, but they're going to change them so that they're interested in streets, technologies, schools, colleges, inventions, and philosophy, committed to making penguins men. Can they do it? No. Why? Because a penguin doesn't have the right life form. Try all that you may. You will never make a penguin be stirred up about slums, the poor, the next election, or any of these things. That is

so obvious that to even think of it seems ridiculous. But when we turn this around, it doesn't begin to be ridiculous at all.

Men do not try to get other life forms to be like humans. Our interest in other life forms is small at the very best. But look at the Christian. Look at the Christian today. Men are constantly calling us, as Christians, to do certain things. To accomplish certain things. To become certain things. And yet the Christian, having heard this, seeks to respond, and he cannot. The Christian life is an activity of a higher form of life. It is not an attainment. It is not something you do. It is not something you accomplish. It is not something God expects of you to perform. The Christian life is *Life not human*.

Christians today don't know that they have God's life in them. I think you could take virtually any sermon that is being preached today, or has ever been preached in the Christian family, and study it very carefully, and you would see something similar to the explorers standing in front of the penguins calling them to be humans and determining that they would eat with a fork and speak of philosophy.

As you talk to Christians who don't even know they have the life of God in them, no wonder there is so much askew in the Christian family. It's exhausting for you or for me to try to respond to that appeal, for we are using the wrong form of life to live by. You, a Christian, can only be Christian as you lay hold of and live by a Life not your own; unfortunately, most of us didn't know what the Lord meant when He said I've come to give you Life, didn't know that Life was in us, and certainly don't have the biggest idea how to live by that Life.

Let me ask you something. I'd like you to look at human life for just a moment. It would be very, very silly, would it not, for you to start caring about which dog in your community is head of the dog pack. The dogs are running around; there's always one in charge. Anybody who'd be interested in that would be a little odd. That's silly. Well, then, why would someone ask me to be interested in politics? It's the wrong form of life.

I am a Christian. I do not belong to the unregenerated unbeliever whom the Lord reckons as dead. On the other hand, to ask me, a human, to perform divine acts, to live according to the divine standard, is just as ridiculous as asking the penguin to drive a car. Don't tell me what I'm supposed to do as a Christian. I cannot do it. I have the wrong life form, and I'm used to living by that life form. No. Set me free. Don't tell me what to do. Tell me I have the Life of God in me and tell me how to live by that Life.

Now, if a new life form were to come to our earth today, something higher than us, let's say, or worse, something lower, we could expect that life form to come, find somewhere on this earth, some sort of suitable habitat. And it would begin immediately to ignore all the other life forms around and go about expressing the unique nature of this form of life. Dogs sniff out rabbits and bark at the moon. You never want to bark at the moon. Cats chase mice and purr all day long. That's their life form's expression. And birds fly, build nests, and hunt worms. That's typical. And that form of life coming from some other place would do the very same thing.

Now let's look at this thing called man, and I'm speaking now not of Adam in his innocence, and I'm speaking not of the Christian in being saved and having been impregnated with the life of God. Just man. What is his way? Well, he thinks an awful lot. He acquires money. He gets a really big kick out of helping others. He loves to acquire knowledge; he eats up education. He really likes power and riches and luxury. He is captivated by technological advances. He goes ape over things like being the main dog on the block, in the city, in the state, in the capital, or even in the world.

He has never shown any real significant interest in the life forms that are on the bottom of the sea. Well, there is one life form other than his own that seems to be very, very interested in. He once skinned a pig, and he's been fighting over who owns that pig now for several generations, and every week, millions of homo sapiens watch to see who's going to end up with that piece of pig skin for the week. So far, there have been billions of dollars spent to settle this dispute. As of last Sunday, it was not resolved.

Now that's not all. He loves to play games, and he loves watching them even more. All sorts of games. Most of all, he likes to talk about them when they're over with. Now that's man life. That's the expression of the third-highest life form after it has fallen. This creature is wild about building an intricate, complex thing which he calls civilization, and by the way, never forget, he really enjoys being religious and sinning.

Now, is that God? Have I just described the Lord? No, of course not. You know that and recognize it immediately. Alright, but be careful, for you are a Christian, and you belong to a higher realm of life, and sometimes we don't make the connection that when we speak of the kind of life that I just mentioned and describe its ways, we are not speaking of the life form of the Christian.

What if this life form, this higher form of life, ever did come to this earth? What would it do? Would it do all the things that I just mentioned? Do you think that if God came down from heavenly places and came to earth, He would spend a good part of His life trying to get rich? Would He be excited about pushing for great technological advances? Would He go to the university and try to get a degree, or several degrees, and encourage other people to get degrees? Would He end up watching what happened to that pigskin? Would He sell His life's existence to get a car and a three-bedroom house? Seriously, would he be upper class, middle class, or lower class? Would He be interested in who is number one? Would He launch a campaign to reform local government? Would He spend all summer campaigning for his candidate for the presidency? Would He really, really care? No. And how do I know? Because He's a totally different life form from that species. He has no more genuine interest in getting involved in the things of fallen man's social affairs than you are in reforming the local fish hatchery.

Now, wait a minute, because we're going to bridge a gap here. Let's get this a little bit closer to you and to me, for though we are human, there is something also divine going on in us. You know God would not conduct himself in the way the typical fallen man would who lives

on this earth, but wait a minute, if that divine Life did visit this earth in you, but lived instead of you, what would your life be interested in?

A thousand years ago, fallen man invented something where people from all over could come to study, and they could study many, many different kinds of knowledge. In fact, knowledge known on the earth, universal knowledge. Therefore, they called it a university. Now, that was something invented by man, totally man, nothing like a dog who scratches fleas, and nothing like angels nor God. Natural expression of the human, this poor creature, this fallen creature called man. Now, about 200 years ago, someone got out of bed and said, "Well, let's have a university that's Christian." That's like talking about an obedience school for humans, so we can teach them to roll over, sit up, and pant and bark. In other words, that's not a Christian's form of life. In other words, they were trying to send the wrong form of life to the university. And that's what we did.

We took pure pagan subjects, psychology and philosophy, and we made Christian people professors in those classes, and therefore we announced that the university was Christian. And today, it is said with great wisdom, Son, you are a Christian; therefore, you need to go to a Christian university. See, there isn't any such thing, any more than there are underwater swimming lessons for angels. The very word Christian designates a specific life form, just as fish, reptiles, and homo sapiens designate a specific life form.

Now, wait a minute. Don't you believe that Christians should get a university education? Well, I can say no to that and get hanged, or I can say yes, all Christians should go to the university and get an education, and spend the rest of my life not being able to live with myself. But I would like to turn that back and say that that question is irrelevant; it should never be asked. The very fact that a question like that is being asked really shows us that we do not understand the Lord, nor what He has done, and what we really are. But most of all, it shows that we don't even know the first thing about how to live by this higher life that is in us.

I'll answer the question. First of all, it is a question only a lower life form would ask. It's a "man" question. This question is based on the proposition of good and evil. I am supposed to say to myself, I am a Christian. Christians should be the best of citizens. Therefore, a Christian should have a good education so that I can use my talents to serve the Lord, maybe become a really good Christian businessman. Or is it a singer? Or is it a guitar player? Or is it an artist? A great Christian lawyer? Whatever! And serve God with my God-given talents. Hogwash! That is a concept that first-century believers would have fainted dead away in the presence of. You're only being logical. You are a believer speaking as the unbeliever; you are the believer living by your lower life. You are judging by good and evil; you are deciding according to past traditions, reasonableness, and past group precedent. You're thinking on your own, apart from God, but because of human influence, because of what's around us, and because we have not really understood the vast difference between His life form and our life form, and that we can live by that life, therefore, we walk around making all of our decisions above the neck. God's Life form in you does everything that it does below the Adam's apple, but we'll not get into that now. No, it's a human trait to think in those terms

of being a good Christian, a witness, a good businessman, a this or that. Therefore, I must have a Christian education.

No sane man would ask if an angel needed a higher education. Brothers and sisters, it has never occurred to an angel to take this premise into his life; he is not sitting around considering this proposition. And despite the fact that this may be a view that we should all be enrolled in Christian institutions, the fact of the matter is that the institution is not Christian. Unless Jesus Christ Himself had come to earth, a life form higher than any other that this human eye had ever seen or this earth had ever seen, if He had come and founded one, that would have been the work of a higher form of life, but He did not come interested in riches. He did not come interested. He didn't even come so greatly interested in the needs of animals or the lost human world. He only spoke to those of us who would be redeemed and spoke of caring for our brethren, and our brethren are those who carry in them a common life with US.

I realize that questioning this sacred cow could incite a riot, but what I have just described is not how Divine Life operates. Divine Life does not conduct itself, nor apprehend, nor lay hold on this level; we, therefore, must leave the level of human life that we're so used to living, and start out slowly and surely. It'll only take 70 years to learn to live by a Life not human. To do that is to launch out on the greatest of all adventures and to enter into a totally different realm.

I'm going to pursue this just a little bit further. Is there such a thing as a Christian college? There are pagan subjects taught; there are subjects rooted in an unbelieving tradition, nonetheless, taught by believing men. That does not make the activity on that campus divine activity. As a Christian going to college, you may say, Here I am, saved with divine life in me, but I am still living my human life, and I am about to go to an institution to learn pagan knowledge that will cause me to live even more, and depend more, on human life. And then you would be correct in that proposition. If it is a Christian college you are considering, or that you go to or have gone to, then you would be going there to learn to live by a life not your own, not one to absorb the traditions of pagan information. Higher education, technology, and business are all components of civilization that are human life activities.

I give the illustration of the potter who made the goblet, the cup to fill with wine. The vase was stolen, damaged, and dirtied. Now, if the vase is found clean and mended, its purpose is not yet fulfilled. Its purpose is not to return it as a sort of missionary to clay, to go back to a clay pit and stand there as a goblet - with a nonprofit tax-exempt organization behind it, of course - prevailing upon clay to do something. A vase that is living has no place going out to prevent abuse to clay. No, a vase that is living is human. Mine is divine, for that's what you are, a vase, a goblet, a cup for Divine Life. You do not turn around and go back and tell the human beings to live differently. You might invite them to become partakers of divinity, but you do not go back as a missionary to straighten up their source of living, which is pure humanity.

Well, we need so much to see these things clearly in our minds and realize that we are entrenched in such human concepts, and that they must be abandoned, and in some cases, put in reverse. God does not want you to learn more about the chemical components of the dirt out of which you were made; He wants to fill you with new wine.

There's a whole new land out there in front of you, more than a concept; there's a very antithesis of human life, a Life that doesn't think like, act like, or react like, or do anything like a human does, and He has come to you and your level to reach down, impart to you from His level, and bring you up to the Life source that He lives by.

I know that you're probably wondering what my view of education is, but again, I will say that's a human concept. I don't have to have an opinion on a college education. Do I think that you should get a college education? I'm sorry, but I am lukewarm. It's none of your business. I would say you shouldn't decide whether you're going to college. In this society, if you make your decision, you'll almost certainly go. It's the thing that humans do, and the reason you will go is based on reason, logic, and earthly wisdom.

But forget college. I'm speaking about anything. We do it by the intricate goings on within our heads, taught to us as far back as the reasonings of Plato and Socrates, or through the didactics of Aristotle. The Christian does not base his decisions on these viewpoints. Divine life is not logical, it is not reasonable, it does not base its acts on social acceptance or do something because it's the thing to do. You do not go to college, you do not make any decision in your life according to motivations that guarantee you security; that is not the attribute of the higher form of life. He is not motivated by security, nor is He afraid of suffering. Therefore, he does not care to protect himself in the way that humanity protects itself. Divine life is not moved by things such as poverty or riches. Divine Life does not see these things as men see them. The Lord came with total disregard for one and, having lived in the other, showed virtually no interest in it as a lifestyle, or in abandoning it because it was a poor one. His interests were somewhere else.

How, then, do you live Divine Life? The answer is...we need about 30 more meetings just to scratch the surface, that's the answer. One thing is for sure: living by Divine Life is nothing like you imagine, and Divine Life has a way of being monumentally disinterested in pursuing the ways of fallen human life.

Don't get me wrong. A higher life form is not a lazy cop out, just a totally different realm of living with a totally different lifestyle. Should you, a Christian, a man with a higher life form in you, decide the directions of your life on the basis that man has always had? Or should you make your decisions, not in the predictable patterns of human life, but in the deep, intuitive ways of divine life? The only way that you are ever going to find out the real and proper way to face the decisions that you will face upon this planet, and face them through the eyes...no, not through the eyes of God, for that would be a standard...but through the very Life force of the Lord being lived in you. If you're to do this, then you and I must stop living by human life and begin living by the Divine Life that is within us. And I'm not saying

exactly what you will do then. All I am saying is the way you get there will be totally different.

I'd like to go back to the angels for a moment. Could you interest an angel in calculus? Maybe you could get him down to a Christian musical and get him to play a harp there. Maybe you would make this appeal to him: Oh, angel, use your God given talents to glorify the Lord. An angel couldn't even compute such language. If you have any idea of what Divine Life would be like, consider the difference between you and an angel, or even better, consider the Lord Jesus Christ in those three and a half or four years that he lived.

I would ask you to come with me and look through His eyes. You may be amazed. It's wonderful. It's exciting to see someone from another realm invading Earth, coming out of a separate dominion, dimension, scene, and also being able to see the scene. Coming out of the non-material into the material. Coming out of the spiritual into the physical. Coming out of the realms of the higher life form to the lower life form. It had never happened before. A life form that had transversed classifications and entered into another life classification, to understand and know its characteristics and its ways in existence. Jesus Christ did that when he became a man.

As someone said, it was very much like a man becoming a cockroach. The Lord Jesus must have been fascinated to be introduced to the feelings of logic or the realms of logic, reason, ambition, and the lust of knowledge. I don't mean that He was experiencing that, but to see it and to be able to identify it in those whom He had watched at a little bit more distant vantage point than when He was captured inside a human body.

What would it be like if I had become a puppy, or you had become a cat? We would begin to get all sorts of senses and feelings that we had never had before: the desire to bark, the desire to rub up against someone's leg, and purr. We would begin to understand the instincts of the dog or of the cat. We would immediately begin to understand why he wags his tail or why the cat is always chasing the mouse. We would begin to understand, at least, the instinctive nature of this. Well, God, the highest Life form in the universe, transversed His highest state and entered into a third-class state. Why? Because he was compelled by love and because he had a purpose.

Look at this life form, now in a human body, this invader from outer space. Several things come immediately to our attention. The first thing that hits us is that when Divine Life takes on human life and suddenly has the choice of which of those two lives to live by, He denies His human life and chooses to continue living by the life of His Father. He denied, he put in second place, His human life, so that he might live, continually, even in human form, by the life He had lived before. That's a very simple observation, but it's very powerful, for it points the Christian to the proper decision for his own life. It is the nature of Divine Life to live by Divine Life, even when that life form may be living in another in the body of another life form. It is the nature of Divine Life to deny the soul. You may not realize this, but that means He totally denied almost everything that we hold central in human living.

Did you ever notice how interested Jesus Christ was in public schools and in technology? Notice how interested He was in getting rich. Notice the big house He lived in. Did you ever see His view on local taxes? It was classical. Notice just exactly how impressed He was with the Roman Empire and the Roman Emperor. See how much He pressed for education in His own life and those around Him. He chose mostly illiterate and ignorant people to be with.

But did He not say, You visited me? You visited one of these in prisons. Shouldn't we go to visit the prisoners and the sick? Well, you've left out one little phrase in that passage. Jesus Christ was interested, terribly interested, in those who had His own Life form in them. Like all other life forms in the universe, He is very interested in His species. He showed virtually no interest in other forms of life, but He often spoke of "My brethren." He was referring to those who would have the Life of God in them.

He was not a social reformer, trying to right the wrongs of the destitute. He was interested in "My brethren." God did not come to earth to get all wrapped up in the activities of a lower life, for He lived according to the disposition of His own Life, and God in Christ turned out not to be all that interested in science, becoming famous, acquiring creature comforts, or amassing wealth. Living by His Life as he did, He lived by the life of the Father, and He showed and reflected the interest and the disinterest of His Father.

Look at Him. Life form number three is so logical, so complex. Life form number one came along, so simple. So incredibly simple. Overwhelmingly uncomplicated, He spoke in simple words about simple things, in simple ways, living a simple life, and he was mostly responded to by the simple. When "mental" men came to Jesus with complex questions and flawless logic, He stunned them with His childlike answers and destroyed their pretentious reasoning. He was the essence of simplicity in thought, way, outlook, desire, and living. He was another kind of Life and a higher one, and yet a Life, though it was higher, was not given to complexity.

Who would have ever guessed that a higher Life form would be not more complex but simpler than man? You're in reverse when you're complex. That's the fallenness of your life showing. A simple life is more advanced than a complex life. You need only look at the Lord to see that. The divine life was simpler than the human life He came to save.

He came here to introduce, on this earth, a new species. That's why He came. Not a new race, but a new species, one that had never existed on this planet before. A visible creature it would be, not like angels who are invisible, but a visible species that lived by Divine Life, God's Life. Not until that time had God's Life ever been visible. Previously, it had only been invisible. Now he wished for a living creature who could be seen to live by His Life. That new species had its beginning in heavenly places, but came to earth, and that is still true today. The Life that is in you came from outer space. It came from beyond space. It came from spiritual realms where there is no space.

When He looked at Nicodemus and said You must be born again, He didn't say You must be born again; He looked and pointed to other realms. In his exact words, He said this. *You*

*must be born from out there. From above.* You belong to that race that has its origins out there.

There is a species: plant. A species: fish. A species: angels. God was another species, His own, living here on this planet: the sons of God, and that's why Christ came and saved us. We've been rejoicing in that salvation, good, but we've also been starting organizations for the preservation of clay pots, broken wine goblets, ever since our salvation. We forgot our goal is the stars. The age that you and I live in does not know that we, this new species, have Divine Life in us. It has never occurred to us that we can live by the same Life Jesus Christ got up in the morning and lived by.

It's high time that you, like the early believers, started re-learning how to live by a Life not your own. It's time the divine race started living by Divine Life. It's time that the words - the chosen of God, and the joint heirs of God, and the presence of Christ, the sons of God - take on its true meaning, that we have that divine portion in us and to become practiced in finding that life embedded somewhere within us, and begin making contact with that life, and begin the rudimentary experience of living by Life.

I must say to you that introducing the new species to this earth was not all that your Lord came for. He also came here, to this earth, to set up a nation. I gave an illustration of what would happen if a new species came to this earth. It would find a suitable habitat and begin to live there, pretty much ignoring what was going on in the ocean.

Well, Jesus Christ came to set up a nation where His new species could live together. Birds live in flocks, sheep live in herds, fish live in schools, and ants live in anthills. Man lives in a colossal mess called nations, interlocked together, called civilization. God's new species would also have its flock, its herd, its hill, its nation, its civilization, but not really, because it would be a different species with something different. It would be...He called it a kingdom. I am tempted to say he came to bring a higher civilization, no, like Martians coming, invading from outer space. I would say this: His life form did not come for civilization. That's a lower life idea. He came, and when He came, He came to Israel. He spoke of a kingdom. Somebody would set up a kingdom, a human kingdom, a lower life-form kingdom there, that would be like and supplant the kingdoms of the pagan nations. Maybe take over Rome. Some thought this was what he would do. Maybe they thought he would go to Switzerland, start a small group hidden away in the Alps, and engage in guerrilla warfare. He didn't do that.

Where did he plan to locate his flock, his school of fish, his foal, his nation, his anthill? That's a very interesting question. Would he put it on this earth, build a wall around it with streets like other men? No, again, that was a human thought, a lower life form thought. No, He would not, as an invader from other realms, bring forth something that was patterned after something on this earth.

No, as being One who had come in as an invader from other realms, He would introduce something upon this earth that was patterned after other realms. It would look like, it would be like, something in another realm. It would not have any similarities to any nation, flock,

anthill, foal, school, gang, nation of any other life form upon this earth, that there would be a place, a habitat, where His new species could live together in one place and more or less ignore the fish and the cattle and the angels. Perhaps this nation would take a very special place, a very special piece of ground, and it would need a capital city. No. Not at all. That's little life form stuff. That's what number three does.

He would have His new species and a new kingdom He would have on this earth. but it did not have to be located in any one place. His kingdom could locate anywhere. His race could spread across the nations, beyond the earth, beyond any specific place on the earth. It would not need any kind of citizenship that overlapped with the other nations. It was a nation without boundaries, just like the kingdom in the heavenly realms, and that other sphere is also without boundaries. It could be anywhere it pleased to be; that would be their habitat. For that is their way. This was the Lord's plan.

And furthermore, He has an even greater plan for this nation of His. He plans for this new species not only to live on this earth as a nation, but also to conquer the whole world, annex the whole planet, and bring it into the heavenly realms. He came here for the purpose of conquest. He came here to join the heavenly kingdom with the earthly realm and make them one. And therefore, He would then become king not over two realms but one. He plans to be King and Lord of earth just as he is already King and Lord of heavenly places.

Do not doubt his subversive intentions. He is a revolutionary. No, He is *the* revolutionary. He was in the first century; He is now, and He will be until the day He conquers. He has a revolutionary plan that far exceeds anything ever fashioned by men or angels.

He introduced His nation, His flock, His habitat upon this earth, where His species would gather together and live by His Life. A new species that is called by a name; that name is the New Man. Not the old man patched up, but literally a new creation introduced to this earth about the year 33 or 34 A.D., and He set up a nation, and you know what He did? He made Himself head of that nation.

This is the most glorious nation on earth, for Jesus Christ is the king of that citizenry. The citizens of that country are all a new species, and it is now 2000 years old. Where they live, they come together to live by Divine Life. They have a way of living unknown to ants, unknown to bees, unlike anything the salmon know, anything that beavers or even old third-class men can ever comprehend.

I tell you, the place where they gather, and the way that they live, as they live by Divine Life together, is glorious! I've been there. For this civilization, this habitat, this glorious and unique place is where Jesus Christ dwells.

Where is it located? How can you become a citizen of it? How can you migrate or immigrate there? What is it? You became a citizen of that nation by birth from the very day that Divine Life was born in you. It is a nation located somewhere on this earth, irrespective of where other forms of life are, or any rules of any other form of life. It doesn't go into the water to build like the beaver; it doesn't go into the islands to live like the seagulls; it does not model

itself after any pattern of any other lower life, of any lower life form, on this earth. It doesn't copy them, it doesn't interfere with them, it doesn't pay any attention to what the other life forms are doing in their habitat; it is not interested in what the bee, the seagull, or even fallen man is doing. It is a species apart, and it is living for that species.

Unlike third-class men, this species does not set up patterns, boundaries, philosophies, political ways, or organizational structures. For sure, it does not do that. It does not engage in the way that bees and men do. It is not patterned after any other form of life in this universe, but I will tell you one thing it does do: it kidnaps.

Every once in a while, it goes out and kidnaps the lower life form that had been chosen before the foundation of the ages to receive a higher form of life. It kidnaps them and brings them to their proper habitat where the divine race grows together, living by a Life not human, but living by the Life of God.

Kidnapping is called by a process known as *the new birth*. What is this mission like? It spreads all over the earth. It's very difficult sometimes to even find that they meet, and when they meet, they talk, they share, they rejoice, and most of all, they follow their King together. If you're one of this new species, you really ought to give up your third-rate ways with its religions, its ways, its habitats, and everything that it has, and come to live with your own life form, and come to the nation of which you are a citizen by birth. You really don't need to be out there, running around with lower life forms, like a dog trying to be a chicken, or an eagle trying to be a fish. Come up to the glory of your own nation, turn to your own people, and take hold of the Life that is within you, and live by a higher Life.

And you know the name of this glorious nation. You know its name, the name of this kingdom. It's called *the Ekklesia*; it's the Church, and no other life form in the universe has anything like it. Hallelujah!

Now, if you are a new Christian, you've learned how to do things the wrong way. Like the ugly duckling, you need to figure out that you are a swan and not a duck and stop trying to imitate those ducks. Find that swan life in you and live by that life and run around with swans. Let the ducks take care of their own problems and let them have their own ambitions to achieve. You go with the ways of the swan.

You have two things to do. One is to learn to live by the life of God, then live by that life together with those who have the same life. Or to put it another way, learn to live by Christ, and live out that Life of His in the Church.

Pack your bag; join the rest of your species...in the land of ekklesia.