

Message Four

Participating in God's Species

Scripture Reading: John 3:15; Rom. 8:14, 16, 23, 29-30;
2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:4-5; 1 John 3:2

- I. **The God-men have the divine right to participate in God's species—John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:14, 16.**
- II. **The kingdom of God is a realm, not only of the divine dominion but also of the divine species—John 3:3, 5-6; 18:36:**
 - A. In John 3 *the kingdom of God* refers more to the species of God than to the reign of God.
 - B. God became man to enter into the human species, and man becomes God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to enter into the realm of the divine species—1:1, 12-14; 2 Pet. 1:4.
 - C. In order to enter into the realm of the divine species, we need to be born of God to have the divine life and the divine nature—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-6, 15; 2 Pet. 1:4:
 1. God created man, not after man's kind but in His image and after His likeness to be God's kind, God's species—Gen. 1:26.
 2. The believers, who are born of God by regeneration to be His children in His life and nature but not in His Godhead, are more in God's kind than Adam was—John 1:12-13:
 - a. Adam had only the outward appearance without the inward reality of the divine life.
 - b. We, the believers in Christ and the children of God, have the reality of the divine life, and we are being transformed and conformed to the Lord's image in our entire being—2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2; 8:29.
 - c. Our second birth, regeneration, caused us to enter into the kingdom of God to become the species of God—John 3:3, 5-6.
 - d. We have been regenerated to be Godkind; as God's sons, we are God's kind, God's species—Rom. 8:19; Heb. 2:10.
 - e. All the children of God are in the divine realm of the divine species—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5.
 - f. The believers are God-men in the divine species, that is, in the kingdom of God—1 John 3:1a; John 1:12-13; 3:5.
- III. **In the Gospel of John we see many aspects of the believers living in the realm of the divine species—1:16; 15:4a, 9, 11; 4:23-24; 14:2, 20, 23; 17:22-24:**
 - A. "Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace"—1:16.
 - B. "He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit"—20:22.
 - C. "He who does the truth comes to the light, that his works may be manifested that they are wrought in God"—3:21.
 - D. "As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love"—15:9.
 - E. "These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full"—v. 11.
 - F. "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me, and where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him"—12:26.
 - G. "In My Father's house are many abodes...I go to prepare a place for you"—14:2.

- H. “In that day you will know that I am in My father, and you in Me, and I in you”—v. 20.
- I. “Abide in Me, and I in you”—15:4a.
- J. “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”—14:23.
- K. “Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are”—17:11.
- L. “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one”—v. 22.
- M. “I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one”—v. 23a.
- N. “Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory”—v. 24.