

Representing the Lord Jesus in His Absence

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Church: 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel

References: 1 Timothy 3, John 14:8-9; Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 2 Corinthians 5:20; 1 Timothy 3:15

The Fullness of the Godhead

When Jesus was on earth, the disciples said, "Would You show us the Father?"

[John 14:8-9 NKJV] - ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, "Show us the Father'?"

So when the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was the **fullness** of the Godhead. I take that to mean He represented God the Father, He was God the Son, and He represented the Holy Spirit. Bodily, He was in a body, He was in flesh and blood—the Lord Jesus on earth representing the Godhead.

Let's go to another reference, Ephesians now, just back up a little bit. Galatians, Ephesians, chapter 1, and let me begin reading in verse 22. Ephesians chapter 1 and verse 22.

[Ephesians 1:22 NKJV] - ²² And He put all things under His feet,

God under Jesus' feet,

and gave Him

Jesus,

to be head over all things to the church,

Notice,

[Ephesians 1:23 NKJV] - ²³ which is His body,

We've talked about that. Now notice,

the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Members of His Body

Let me see if I can put this thought together. Jesus on earth bodily, representing the Godhead: Father, Son, and Spirit. Jesus, now ascended into heaven, leaves His spiritual body on earth. Well, who is that? What is that? Well, that's us. We've talked about that. We are members.

[1 Corinthians 12:27 NKJV] - Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

He is the head. He's in heaven. We're on earth, and the Scriptures say we are the **fullness** of Him.

Now, here's my point. When He was on the earth, He was the **fullness** of the Godhead. He represented the Godhead. He's gone. In His absence, are you with me? We represent Him. We're His **hands**. When He took the loaves and the fish and broke the bread and distributed the fish with His hands—He's gone. We do that now. We are His **hands**. We are His **feet**. We are His **mouth**. We are the expression of Jesus. We represent the Lord Jesus.

How do you conduct yourself in the household of God? Well, these are some of the ways. We represent the Lord Jesus. So, I'm almost embarrassed to ask you the question, because it reflects on the... the speaker as well as the listener: How are you doing with that?

When people meet you, when people see you, when you're at school or at work or in the community, wherever you are, how do people recognize you? What do they think about you? Is it possible that you are representing the Lord Jesus every day, all day, in every location in such a way that when you meet people or interact with people, they go, "There's something **different** about—that there's something **good** about them, there's something **right** about them, there's something **honest** about them, there's something **loving** about them"? And if they have any knowledge of God or the Lord Jesus, do you think it's possible that they might even think that there's a **connection** between you and the Lord? We're representing Him. I mean, we are even called His—

[2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV] - Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Ambassadors for Christ

Wow. Let's suppose an ambassador from Canada went to China and he got over there and he didn't do very well. Finally, somebody said, "Where are you from? Who are you?" when they should recognize an ambassador from another country by his language, by the way he conducts himself. He should be promoting his country. They should—he should—you know, they should say, "Oh, that's the ambassador from Canada. Isn't he a lovely guy? You know, I wonder if everybody in Canada is like that guy, you know?" I mean, that would be the right answer, right? What do they think?

I've heard this—it's not good, but I've heard it: "If that's a Christian, I don't want to be one." Wow. Chances are that person's not even a Christian, but he says he is, or she is.

In the family of God, we have a great **privilege** being a representative of Jesus in His absence. Well, it was a fad. I guess it's over now, but it went something like this: You get a little bracelet, you know, and you put it around your arm like this, and on that bracelet was **WWJD** on the bracelet. It was just little beads—some were square, some were round—and a little leather thing through it, and it had **WWJD**, and it stood for What Would Jesus Do? We should hang them around our neck and hang them off our ears and put them on our arms and wear them as a cap. I'm being silly, but that's what should fill our minds: "How can I replicate? Represent Jesus in this conversation, in this activity, in my job, at school, wherever I am."

So, anyhow,

[1 Timothy 3:15 NKJV] - but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Closing Prayer

Let's pray.

Father, thank You for these thoughts that challenge our hearts, and what a great **privilege** to think that the Lord would want us to represent Him. We can hardly imagine it. Lord, help us to do a good job today, representing You to our fellow Christians and to the world around us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thanks for the challenge.