

The Unity of the Spirit

by Wayne Goff

The Lord Jesus Christ prayed for the perfect unity of all His believers. *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You;** that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me”* (John 17:20–21). In spite of this truth, there are those who claim to be followers of Christ who do nothing but promote division, strife, and enmity. They are always fault-finding, and promoting their viewpoints, as though they were “gospel.”

Let us put off these worldly attitudes and adopt the standard which Jesus gave us through the apostle Paul, Ephesians 4:1-6

One Body

*“And He is the head of **the body, the church,** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence”* (Colossians 1:18). *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into **one body** — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit”* (1 Corinthians 12:13). No body is as good as the one of which Jesus is the Head. No body is as good as the one Jesus saves (Eph. 5:23). No body is as good as the body of Christ, which is His church.

One Spirit

*“However, when He, **the Spirit of truth,** has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come”* (John 16:13). The Spirit of truth promotes nothing but truth. There are not a diversity of “correct answers” with God. There is one and only true answer, and that is found in the Spirit’s revelation to man, the New Testament.

One Hope

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). The hope of heaven is imagined by many, but is only real to those who truly believe in and obey Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope (John 14:1-3). When He returns, He will receive to Himself those who have obeyed Him (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

One Lord

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:13–18). We are servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, and citizens in His kingdom that exists now. We were ushered into His kingdom when we received the redemption through His blood. He is above all, over all, and before all.

One Faith

There are **not** many faiths, but one true faith. *“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for **the faith** which was **once for all delivered** to the saints”* (Jude 1:3). True followers contend for that one faith, once delivered. There are no latter-day revelations in God’s plan.

One Baptism

This is the baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38; 22:16.

One God

Our heavenly Father is the one, true, living God, Eph. 4:6; John 4:24.

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