

EPHESIANS 4:4-6 THE ONENESS OF THE CHURCH

As this section has been focusing on unity, what better example of unity is there than the Trinity. All three persons in the Godhead are plainly seen in verses 4-6. Each one is connected with the word, one. The theme continues with unity.

These truths are in experimental order. We first, think of the work of the Holy Spirit, but He brings us to the Son, for that was why He was sent. The Son's purpose, then was to glorify the Father.

One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one Father. This is the objective foundation of our diligent efforts to preserve the unity of the Spirit. It is not a fragile or ultimately vulnerable thing. It rests on the oneness of God, the oneness of faith, the oneness of baptism, and the oneness of the body. Those things are one, no matter what you or I do. They are fixed realities. Our task is to walk worthily of them.

1. UNITY IN THE SPIRIT

4:4

Paul now gives the reason why we should keep the unity of the Spirit. This concerns the doctrine of the Church. The unity of the Church is a manifestation of the perfection of the Godhead. Each of the three groups is arranged around one of the persons of the Trinity. We should see ourselves as members of the church and the church is a reflection of the Trinity.

There is only one church, unseen and spiritual. There is only one body made up of all types, kinds and colors and nations.

There are seven ones there, the number of perfection. One is the key, and that's the whole design of God. This is behind the worthy walk, this is the cause, this is the reality that stands behind this practical oneness. The cause, the reason, the basis. And this is a tremendous passage. How many bodies of Christ are there? How many? One, there isn't the presbyterian body and the Baptist body and the Methodist body and the Episcopal body and the body in panorama City and the body in Utah and the body in Kansas, there's just one body, one body. There's neither Jew nor Gentile, bond nor free, male nor female you're all one in Christ, there's one body, there is one church, there is one head to that church, just one body, that's all. Ephesians is based on that whole concept.

What...whatever race, whatever creed, whatever culture, whatever nationality, whatever language, whatever temperament may be in your background you become a Christian and you are instantly made one with every other Christian. Listen 3:15 of Ephesians says there is one family in heaven and earth, just one. One body of Christ, we are an organism made up of every single true believer. Boy that's hard for me to take sometimes. I mean there's some true believers they maybe are saved but boy they're really messed up. You say, you mean -there's presbyterians in there and Anglicans and Charismatics, Neo-Evangelical, Fourth Degree Separationists all in the same body?

All in the same body, only one body.

And we've got to realize this, instead of celebrating our differences and instead of trying to create unity out of superficial ecumenism or anything else we've got to start in the

heart. You know what I believe? I believe if all Christians were right with the Holy Spirit we wouldn't have any discord, it would purify our doctrine to start with, secondly it would purify our relationships, only one body.

Included in the body are the early Christians, Reformers, Puritans, Covenanters, The Church spans the ages.
We all are parts and portions and members of the church.
The problems with us is that we always start with ourselves. We are too subjective. Sin puts self in the center. We are actually units of a great mystical body.

1. The Church Is A New Creation
2. Diversity In Unity

B. ONE SPIRIT

It is the Spirit that makes the body a living organism.
There is preparation by the Holy Spirit before we come into the Kingdom.

1. Conviction Of Sin
Our first great need is to be brought down.
John 16:8
2. Quickening And Regeneration
This is the work of faith by the Spirit.
John 3:1-8, Eph 2:1
3. Incorporates Us Into The Body Of Christ
The Holy Spirit unites us to Christ.
1 Cor 3:16-17, Eph 2:21-22, 1:14
4. Animates The Life Of The Whole Body
He is the one who connects all the parts together.
1 Cor 3:16-17
5. Produces The Fruit
This is the orchard. A Christian is no longer governed by personality but the Holy Spirit. Through this personality, fruit begins to show. We love it when we see it in others. Our personality is still there, but there is so much fruit that we can't be seen. Only the graces should be seen.
Gal 5:22-23

C. ONE HOPE

1. The Hope Of The Calling
This deals with our experience of our salvation and and our walk. It is a calling to Christ like living. We are called to be holy and blameless.
Eph 1:4,18, Rom 8:29
2. Looking Forward
The body is being prepared for the great day that is to come. We are all going to the same glory. We all have this same hope where there will be no divisions and distinctions.
Rom 8:18, 2 Cor 4:17-18, 5:1, Titus 2:13, 1 Jn 3:2
1 Cor 13:12, Col 3:2

2. UNITY IN THE SON

4:5

The central work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Son. He alone enables us

to see Him and know Him. The Holy Spirit illumines the mind to see Christ.

A. ONE LORD

1. Uniqueness of His **Person**

Christ is alone in His glory.

If you believe it, you will be called arrogant, and intolerant, and ignorant. You will be opposed by powerful people like British theologian John Hick who argues that different religions are "equals, though they each may have different emphases." Christianity, he says, is not superior, but one partner in the quest for salvation. We are not to seek one world religion but rather we look to the day when "the ecumenical spirit which has so largely transformed Christianity will increasingly affect relations between the world faiths." He likes to quote from the Hindu Bhagavad Gita, iv, 11, "However man may approach me, even so do I accept them; for, on all sides, whatever path they may choose is mine."

The incarnation and the dual nature is so unlike any other religion.

John 21:7, 1 Cor 2:7, Heb 1:1-4

Implication: Christianity is Christ

Christianity is the Lord Himself and our relationship to Him.

Implication: One Lord cannot be divided—God-man indivisible

The two natures are joined together.

2. Uniqueness of His **Work**

The Christian faith demands somewhat of the aspect of intolerance.

Intolerance and absolute unity. Is this not the Gospel?

Only One Savior---Acts 4:12, 1 Cor 2:2, 1 Cor 8:5-6, 1 Tim 2:5,

3. Uniqueness in His **Relationship**

We were bought with a price. We are not our own. He died for me and purchased me. We are not our own masters.

1 Cor 6:19-20, John 13:13-14

B. ONE FAITH

This faith is put with the Lord. It refers to the very essence of the Gospel.

It refers to justifying faith. The doctrine of justification by faith.

It is not speaking of a subjective faith.

The word of faith which we preach is that our salvation is all the action of God through this one Lord Jesus Christ. That is why one faith follows one Lord.

Justification is God's action, a forensic action.

Jude 3, Rom 10:8,6

Sola Fide---God's way of saving men, the righteousness from God

It's about the way of justification.

Rom 4:5 Rom 3:21-31

Justifying faith. You can lean on nothing in yourself, that all your righteousness is but filthy rags.

C. ONE BAPTISM

Baptism promotes unity, but there is no one doctrine that seems to divide the Church, more than baptism.

1. The Negatives

It does not mean regeneration. It does not refer to mode. It does not refer to ritual.

2. The Spiritual Representation

That which baptism represents and signifies. It is the thing signified that matters.

Baptism is into one name only---Mt 28:19, Acts 2:38, 19:5

Baptism is in the name of Christ, and through Him, into the name of the Spirit and of the Father.

What it represents—Into the Realm of Christ Being identified with, put into the sphere or influence of. We no longer belong to the world but to Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 10:1-2, Rom 6:3-4, Rom 5:12, 1 Cor 12:13---Baptism leads to unity.

3. UNITY IN THE FATHER

4:6

ONE GOD---Deut 6:4, 1 Cor 8:4-6

TRINITY---Mt 28:19, Jn 6:27, 20:28, Acts 5:3-4