

THE SEVEN FOLD UNITY OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction: Since the beginning of the human race there has never been a close cooperation with each other, not even the first two brothers got along for one killed the other. Every organization composed of people has strong areas, but there is always that area of dis-unity, non-cooperation, individualism. There just seems to be no way of bringing people together in one accord, in unity. However, God has a way and it is through His Church.

I. THE CHURCH IS OF ONE BODY

1. There are some "one body" groups we are familiar with such as the family, the school, the home, and the Church.
2. The Family of God is the "Church." (*Hebrews 12:23*).
 - Any who love God and seek His will are part of God's Church.
 - God is author, Jesus Christ is the head, and the power of the Church is the Holy Spirit, the rule or standard the Church goes by is God's Word.
3. Some pastors have several languages among their congregations and at times when everyone is together, translation is required. It is the single Word of God but it is translated into the various languages of the congregation. One Word, One Church, One Body.

II. THERE IS ONE SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit gives believers in Jesus Christ life.
2. The Church is congregational, organized, has ordinances, disciplines, commissioned and Holy Spirit empowered.
3. The Church is one body and is of one mind, one spirit.

III. THERE IS ONE HOPE

1. The single hope is in Jesus Christ, the one who intercedes, mediates for the believer.
 - Jesus is our advocate, one who pleads our case before God, the Father.
2. Jesus is our assurance, it is Jesus who sees to our final glory.
3. Some day every believer in Jesus shall have all his/her hopes rewarded.
 - Resurrected, new bodies, etc., all done through and by the Lord Jesus Christ, the ONE hope.

IV. THERE IS ONE LORD

1. There is only one who purchased the believer, there is only one who rules and reigns.
2. There is only one who is exalted and raised up. (*Philippians 2:9-10*)
3. There is but only one name that every knee will bow to. (*Revelation 5:4-13*)
4. The only one is master, teacher, captain, bridegroom.
5. There are books of "religions" in which are lists of various faiths and included is Christianity, along side all the others. Christianity is NOT a religion.
 - There is but ONE true "religion," one body, one spirit, one hope one Lord and that is Jesus Christ.

V. THERE IS ONE FAITH

1. The only faith, the true faith, the one faith is revealed in the Bible.
2. Forgiveness, salvation, hope, all are found in the Bible.
3. One's idea of salvation is not as good as the other person's.
4. Not just any faith/religion will do. God's Word reveals that Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to heaven and through FAITH in Him brings eternal life and heaven.

VI. ONE BAPTISM

1. There is but one baptism and it represents the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. *John 1:14-28* - All this came from God, not from man.
3. Holy Spirit baptism places us into the body of Jesus Christ.
 - Water baptism pictures the Spirit baptism.

VII. ONE GOD AND FATHER

1. Jesus Christ said: "*...if you have seen me, you have seen the Father...*"
2. In the Old Testament He is called Jehovah. In the New Testament He is called Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. Coming to Jesus is coming to God. To love Jesus is to love God. To accept Jesus is to accept God.
2. The Church is the ONLY "thing" on earth that is totally unified. Are YOU a part of it?