

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 4:1-6**.
- B. The restoration plea is the unity of believers in the one church. This passage (Eph. 4) along with Jn. 17 were two of the most preached by our 19th century spiritual ancestors.
- C. For God's people to be one, as Jesus prayed, this passage has much to say.

I. ONE BODY (Eph. 4:4).

- A. When the apostle Paul is talking in spiritual terms about the body, he is referring to the body of Christ, or the church.
- B. Jesus had one physical body while on the earth, He has but one spiritual body on the earth today--the church. Jesus gave up His physical body that He might purchase the spiritual body, the church (Col. 1:18; 1Cor. 12:20; Eph. 2:16; 5:23).
(Col 1:18) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.
(1Cor 12:20) But now there are many members, but one body.
(Eph 2:16) and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.
(Eph 5:23) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

II. ONE SPIRIT (Eph. 4:4).

- A. This is a reference to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit indwells the church (1Cor. 3:16).
Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- B. Last Sunday, I spoke of the blessing of the having the HS in our life (1Cor. 12:13; Ac. 5:32; Jas. 4:5).
(1Cor 12:13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
(Ac 5:32) "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."
(Jas. 4:5) Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

III. ONE HOPE (Eph. 4:4).

- A. Earlier in this same letter Paul speaks of hope (Eph. 2:12).
remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- B. This hope is the great desire plus expectation of going to heaven (1Pet. 1:3-4; Rom. 8:24; 1Tim. 4:10).
(1Pet 1:3-4) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
(Rom 8:24) For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?
(1Tim 4:10) For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

IV. ONE LORD (Eph. 4:5).

- A. This designation has reference to Jesus. He is to be the Lord of our lives (Mt. 7:21).
"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven."
- B. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 17:14). We are to call no one else our spiritual lord (Mt. 23:9-10).

(Rev 17:14) “These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”

(Mt 23:9-10) “And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 “And do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ.

- C. Other scripture texts (Mk. 12:30; Rom. 10:9; 1Cor. 6:11).

(Mk 12:30) AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’

(Rom 10:9) that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;

(1Cor 6:11) And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

V. ONE FAITH (Eph. 4:5).

- A. This term is a little difficult in its context. It could be referring to:

1. Faith that is the inward conviction of each person and that conviction is to be directed toward X.
2. Faith that is the body or realm of doctrine to be taught. There is but one teaching that will result in salvation, the teaching of the Scriptures.

- B. Scripture texts on faith as an inward conviction (Heb. 11:1, 6; Eph. 2:8-9):

(Heb 11:1, 6) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

(Eph 2:8-9) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

- C. Some scriptures on faith as a body of doctrine (Jude v3; 2Cor. 13:5):

(Jude v3) Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

(2Cor 13:5) Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?

VI. ONE BAPTISM (Eph. 4:5).

- A. The NT mentions seven different kinds of baptisms:

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| 1. Fire. | 5. Of the Holy Spirit. |
| 2. John. | 6. For the dead. |
| 3. Suffering. | 7. Jesus Christ's. |
| 4. Moses. | |

- B. But only one of these baptisms saves people and puts them into a right relationship with God--water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ (Mt. 28:19-20; Ac. 8:36-39; 1Pet. 3:20-21).

(Mt 28:19-20) “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

(Ac 8:36-39) And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said^, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” 37 <And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”> 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.

(1Pet 3:20-21) who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

VII. ONE GOD (Eph. 4:6).

- A. Yes, God is the creator and sustainer of the universe, but wants a relationship with men/women so that He is their spiritual Father.

- B. God is all things, omnipresent, omniscient, omni-benevolent. He is “above all, through all, and in you all” (Rom. 8:15-17; Mt. 6:9; see Psa. 139:7-16).

(Rom 8:15-17) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

(Mt 6:9) “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.’”

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The unity of God’s people is dependent upon our understanding and keeping these seven ones in the forefront of our religion.
- B. The one name given by which we are saved is X (Ac. 4:12).
And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”
- C. Become a Xian today and enjoy these wonderful unites of the Spirit.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.