

# Unity

(Part 2)

## – A Study of Ephesians 4:1-6

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## The Beauty of Unity

- The Persons of the Godhead.  
cf. Deuteronomy 6:4; John 10:30
- The majestic universe. Jeremiah 31:35-36
- The Old and New Testaments.
- Unity is “good” and “pleasant.” Psalms 133:1
- “Oneness” is the antidote against becoming unbelievers. John 17:20-21

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## Ugliness of Division

- Jerusalem was troubled with Judaizers.  
Acts 11:2; 15:1ff
- Corinth. 1 Corinth 1:10ff
- Philippi had Euodia and Syntyche.  
Philippians 4:2-3
- Ephesus had:
  - 1 Timothy 1:19-20 – Hymenaeus and Alexander.
  - 2 Timothy 2:17-18 – Hymenaeus and Philetus.
- Letter to Gaius mentions Diotrephes. 3 John 9

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Ephesians 4:1-6, “*I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

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- It is clear to see that this chorus of qualities, if engaged by the people of God, will create an atmosphere wherein the redemptive plan of Christ can operate smoothly.
- **Growth is the result!**
- Surely every genuine Christian desires to see this state prevail in the body of Christ.

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## The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

Ephesians 4:1-6, “*(There is) one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.*”

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## The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

### ONE BODY ...

- The body of Christ, the church. Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Matthew 16:18
- Paul speaks here of the church in the “universal” sense.
  - The “body” of saved believers throughout the world
  - Of which Christ is the “head,” and “savior of the body.” Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18
- While there may be many “local” churches (congregations), there is only ONE “universal” church, with ONE “head” – Jesus Christ!

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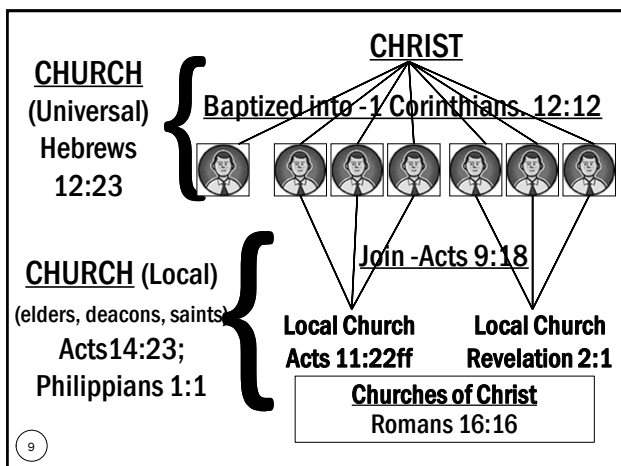
## Matthew 16:18

“And I also say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My **church**; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against **it**.”

Church = Singular in number

It = Singular in number

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## The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

### ONE SPIRIT ... cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13

“The Holy Spirit of promise” Ephesians 1:13-14

- By whom both Jew and Gentile have access to the Father. Ephesians 2:18
- By whom the “mystery of Christ” was revealed to the apostles and prophets. Ephesians 3:5
- Through whom God strengthens with might the inner man. Ephesians 3:16
- As the One whose “unity” is to be maintained in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

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## The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

### ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING ...

Colossians 1:5; Hebrews 6:19; Titus 1:2

- Hope is defined as “desire with expectation of obtaining what is desired.”
- Acts 23:6; 24:15; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:19-23; Philippians 3:10-11, 20-21

Power of HOPE: Romans 8:24-25

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## What Is Our Hope?

- Appearing of the glory of Christ. Titus 2:13; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- Raised by the power of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:28f
- United with the person of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Philippians 1:23
- Conformed to the image of Christ. 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Philippians 3:20-21
- Eternity in the presence of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:17; John 14:3

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## The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

### ONE LORD ...

- Jesus of Nazareth. 1 Corinthians 8:5-6
  - Whom God has made *"both Lord and Christ."* Acts 2:36; 10:36, 43
- Authority. Matthew 28:18; 17:1-5
- No man spoke with such authority. Matthew 7:29

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## The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

### ONE FAITH ... cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10; 4:17

- This the body of truth, *"the faith,"* which Jude says was *"once for all delivered to the saints"* Jude 3
- The gospel. Galatians 1
- The doctrine. Acts 13; 2 John 9
- It is that *"pattern of sound words"* which Paul taught Timothy (2 Timothy 1:13), and which he was to commit to faithful men (2 Timothy 2:2).
- We find this *"pattern of sound words"* in the pages of the New Testament.

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## The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

### ONE BAPTISM ...

- This is the baptism ...
- Commanded by Jesus. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
- Preached and commanded by His apostles. Acts 2:38; 10:48
- By which those who submit to are added to the Lord's body, the church. Acts 2:42,47
- The baptism in which a penitent believer is immersed in water for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38

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## Bible Baptisms

- Baptized into Moses. 1 Corinthians 10:2
- Baptism of John. Mark 1:4; Acts 19:3-4
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 3:11
- Baptism of fire. Matthew 3:11
- Baptism of suffering. Matthew 20:22-23
- Baptism for the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:29
- Baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:5

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- Salvation. Mark 16:16
- Remission of sins. Acts 2:38
- Washing. Acts 22:16
- Calling on Lord. Acts 22:16
- Christ's death. Romans 6:3
- Putting off sin. Romans 6:4
- New creature. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- In Christ. Galatians 3:27
- Cleansing. Ephesians 5:26
- Sanctification. Ephesians 5:26
- Kingdom. John 3:5
- Promise. Acts 2:38-39
- Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Wearing name. 1 Corinthians 1:13
- All spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3

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## The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

### ONE GOD AND FATHER ...

- The Father – Who together with the Son and Holy Spirit, makes up the "Godhead"
- Note that Paul emphasizes both:
  - His personality (*"Father of all"*) Created all. cf. Acts 17:26
  - Father of His children, both Jew (in Christ) and Gentile (in Christ). Galatians 3:26-27
  - His transcendence and omnipresence. *"above all"* (1 Corinthians 15:24-25), and through all (and *"in you all"*).

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### The Platform Of Unity. Ephesians 4:4-6

- **One God** ... Unity In Worship
- **One Lord** ... Unity In Authority
- **One Spirit** ... Unity In Revelation
- **One Faith** ... Unity In Message
- **One Baptism** ... Unity In Practice
- **One Body** ... Unity In Organization
- **One Hope** ... Unity In Desire

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