

Biblical Unity

Biblical Unity is Based on Common Beliefs



While unity generally does not require everyone to believe the same things; Biblical unity does place strong emphasis on speaking and believing the same basic teachings of Jesus Christ. Biblical unity must be desired and worked at in order to survive as one body or one people.

There are many admonitions provided in the New Testament concerning the true meaning of unity as oneness of spirit and mind. Additionally, there are many warnings given in the scripture about holding to the teachings delivered regarding unity.

- **1 Corinthians 1:10**
- **Galatians 1:6-9**
- **Colossians 2:6-7**

The Seven Basic Teachings in Ephesians 4:4-6

(One Faith, One God, One Lord, One Baptism, One Body, One Spirit, One Hope)

The seven basic teachings of Christ are simple and easily understood on the surface. These teachings of **“One Faith”** that the people first heard were the basic teachings of the Gospel. They were taught about the **“One God”** who created all things, and **“One Lord”**, Jesus Christ, who made redemption possible for all. The people were told what to do to be saved. When they believed and obeyed these things, they repented, and were baptized with **“One Baptism”**. Then they became Christians and were included to the **“One Body”** of Christ (**Mark 16:15-16; Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 2:37-47**). Upon the believer’s baptism, they received the indwelling of the **“One Spirit”** which gives us assurance, not only of salvation in Christ, but of the **“One Hope”** of a resurrection unto eternal life. These 7 basic teachings unify us in Christ upon our obedience of the Gospel.



Let's Search the Scripture Together

A Deeper Delve into the 7 "Ones"

ONE GOD

To say that there is "One God" is to say that ALL other so-called gods are not really God! This did not pose much of a problem for the Jews at it did for the Gentiles. However, as we delve deeper into the concept of the idea of "One God", it was a struggle for some Jews to accept the Deity of Jesus as the Son of God and apart of the Godhead. The issue for the Gentiles was turning away from their many gods to the triune God of heaven. A deeper and more mature understanding of this one God and Father requires much study and plenty of time in the Word of God.

ONE LORD

For one to honestly confess that Jesus is Lord requires a very clear understanding that He is now the one who tells me what to do and how to live (Romans 10:9-10). Jesus was preached as Lord and Messiah by Peter on the day of Pentecost. But if there is only "One Lord", this means we must believe that He was the one given "all authority" (2 Corinthians 8:5-6; Matthew 28:18-20). The one Lord unifies us because it is He whom we listen and submit to and to no other (Luke 6:46)!

ONE SPIRIT

There is "One Spirit"! By this Spirit the Gospel was able to be preached throughout the world. It is by this Spirit that we are born again in order to into the Kingdom of Heaven (John 3:3-8). And God has given His people His Spirit to dwell in them as a seal of what is yet to come (Ephesians 1:13-14). While there are many spirit beings, there is only one Holy Spirit that Christians believe in and are guided by.

Maturing as a Christian does not take place overnight, but as we continue to progress in our Christian life, we must remember to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

ONE FAITH

True religion begins for the person who believes in the one true God of heaven in faith (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is the basic pre-requisite in coming into a relationship with God. The Bible speaks of:

1. People being obedient to the faith. **Acts 6:7**
2. Churches being established in the faith. **Acts 16:5**
3. The need to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. **2 Corinth. 13-5**
4. Earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints. **Jude 3**
5. Paul, who preached the faith he once tried to destroy. **Galatians 1:23**

It is critical that ALL Christians hold to the One Faith that is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and written down and preserved for us in the Holy Scriptures.

ONE BAPTISM

The one baptism takes on a significant role in our becoming a Christian.

- **Acts 2:38**
- **Mark 16:15-16**
- **Acts 22:16**
- **1 Peter 3:21**

It is a very humbling act for us to submit unto. It is very clear what we must do when we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior. It is an act of deep love for what Christ did for us that should generate our obedience to the act of baptism (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

ONE BODY

When one is baptized, he/she is added to the church, which is the One Body of Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:22-23**). Both the Jews and the Gentiles had their distinct ceremonial rituals and concepts, but God chose an act of immersion in water to relate to not only the remission of sin, but also the act that puts an individual into the Body of Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 12:13**
- **Acts 2:38**
- **Galatians 3:26-27**

Jesus set forth the concept that there is “one body” or one church that He established and is the head of.

ONE HOPE

When one is saved and comes into the church of Christ, he/she is challenged to begin his/her walk of righteousness with God (**1 John 1:7**). We are challenged to become more like the Lord, to be like God and to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order for us to live godly and righteously on this earth until death (**Rev. 2:10**). When we as believers begin this journey, we are told by God's Word that we can have that One Hope of a resurrection unto eternal life one day (**John 5:28-29**). Eternal life is a very desirable thing to hope for, but there is a depth of understanding that we need to continually hunger and thirsty after (**Matthew 5:6**).



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Biblical Unity is **COMMANDED** by God, **EARNESTLY** prayed for by Jesus and is to be Earnestly desired by God's people. Biblical unity is intended to be a blessing for Christians and a means whereby we can help to convince the world of their need for Jesus Christ.

We have a great challenge on our hands, and God believes that we can live up to the challenge if we REALLY want to. Let's work hard so He can use us to this end!