

THERE IS ONE

by John Isaac Edwards

A reading of Ephesians 4:4-6 reveals, *“There is one...”* In a world of religious pluralism, we need to be reminded of this fundamental fact: there is one...

1) **BODY.** The word “body” appears 8 times in Ephesians. It is used in reference to the church. Paul wrote, *“...the church, which is his body...”* (Eph. 1:22-23). This is where we are reconciled unto God. *“And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body...”* (Eph. 2:16). The Ephesian letter features Christ as head and saviour of the one body. *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body”* (Eph. 5:23). As there is but one body, there is but one head and one saviour — Christ is *the head and the saviour!*

2) **SPiRiT.** The Scriptures show three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 2:18 says, *“For through him [Christ] we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”* Him + one Spirit + the Father = 1 or 3? The work of the one Spirit was that of revelation. The Spirit of God revealed God’s plan for saving man (Eph. 3:3-6). This revelation is the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16). The Holy Spirit is a

divine person as He can be grieved (Eph. 4:30). We are commanded, *“...be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph. 5:18). This occurs as we obey Colossians 3:16, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”* The Spirit operates through the word of God. *“...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph. 6:17).

3) **HOPE.** It is written, *“...that ye may know what is the hope of his calling...”* (Eph. 1:18). Without Christ in the world is to be without hope! Such was the case with the Ephesians. *“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world”* (Eph. 2:12). Our hope is in Christ. 1 Peter 1:3 teaches we are begotten unto a lively hope. 1 Corinthians 4:15 states we are begotten in Christ through the gospel. Thus, we read of *“...the hope of the gospel...”* (Col. 1:23). We are saved by hope (Rom. 8:24). In Christ, we have *“...hope of eternal life...”* (Titus 1:2). Such serves *“...as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil”* (Heb. 6:18-19).

4) **LORD.** The word “Lord” occurs 25 times in the Ephesian

letter. The identity of the one Lord is made known early on in Paul’s writing: *“...the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Eph. 1:2). The word “Lord” denotes someone having power or authority. Ephesians presents Christ as being *“Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come”* (Eph. 1:21). He is *“...the chief corner stone”* (Eph. 2:20). Christ is not a lord among lords, but is *“...Lord of lords”* (1 Tim. 6:15).

5) **FAITH.** The word “faith” is used different ways, depending on the context. Sometimes “faith” has reference to one’s personal faith; what one believes (Heb. 11:6). Other times, the word “faith” is used of the gospel system (Gal. 1:23; 2:2). That is the way the word “faith” is used in Ephesians 4:5. We are to be obedient to (Acts 6:7), continue in (Acts 14:22), stand fast in (1 Cor. 16:13), be established in (Col. 2:7), and earnestly contend for (Jude 3) the one faith. We resist our adversary, the devil, by being stedfast in the faith (1 Pet. 5:9).

6) **BAPTISM.** There are six baptisms mentioned in the Bible: baptism of Moses (1 Cor. 10:2; Ex. 14:21-22), baptism of John (Mt. 21:25), baptism of

suffering (Lk. 12:50), baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5), baptism of fire (Mt. 3:11), and the baptism of the Great Commission (Mk. 16:16). Yet, at the time Paul wrote the Ephesians, he said, *“There is one...baptism”* (Eph. 4:4-5). Four of these baptisms belong to the past. Fire baptism, when the wicked are cast into the lake of fire at the judgment, remains for the future (Rev. 20:15). That leaves one baptism for the present. Which is it? Those who insist water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism for today have one baptism too many! If it’s water baptism, then it can’t be holy Spirit baptism. If it’s holy Spirit baptism, then it must not be water

baptism! The one baptism of Ephesians 4:5 is the baptism of the Great Commission which is necessary to be saved (Mk. 16:16). It is an immersion in water (Acts 8:36-38), for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), that puts one into Christ (Gal. 3:27) and into the one body (1 Cor. 12:13).

7) **GOD.** Paul penned, *“...as there be gods many, and lords many, ...But to us there is but one God...”* (1 Cor. 8:5-6). The one God is not Alla or Buddha; but Jehovah, I AM (Ex. 3:13-14). He is the Creator of heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is (Gen. 1; Ex. 20:11). He is both good and severe (Rom. 11:22).

He requires some things. *“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes...”* (Dt. 10:12-13). He will *“...bring every work into judgment...”* (Eccl. 12:13-14).

May we surrender our will to the authority of the one Lord, be obedient to the one faith, revealed by the one Spirit, in submitting to the one baptism, so as to be reconciled unto the one God, in the one body and thereby be a partaker of the one hope.

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