

There Is One...

John Isaac Edwards

In a world of religious pluralism, we need to be reminded of the fact that there is one. To appreciate this oneness, please take the time to read Ephesians 4:4-6.

Body. Whatever the body is, there is just one. The body is “the church” (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24). Thus, there is only one church. The world boasts of many bodies, and “Join the church of your choice” is the order of the day, but there is only one body in which one can be reconciled (Ephesians 2:16) and of which Christ is the Savior (Ephesians 5:23).

Spirit. The “one Spirit” is “the Spirit of truth” (John 16:13), the agent of divine revelation (Ephesians 3:3-6). Therefore, there is but one body of revealed truth. If we believe, teach and practice things inconsistent with, or contradictory to, the revelation of the “one Spirit,” then our belief, teaching and practice is not truth but error!

Hope. In Christ, we have hope of eternal life (1 Corinthians 15:19; Ephesians 2:12; Colossians 1:27; Titus 1:2; 1 John 5:11). We are “begotten...unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). It is “through the gospel” that we are begotten in Christ (1 Corinthians 4:15), or made “partakers of his promise in Christ” (Ephesians 3:6). If one is begotten “through” something

else, then he is begotten “unto” something else! Any “hope” other than the “one hope” of the gospel is no hope at all.

Lord. Though there be “lords many,” there is but “one Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 8:5-6), the possessor of “all power...in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). All religious teaching and practice is to be done in His name, or by His authority (Colossians 3:17). This means there is only one standard of authority, and to teach or practice that which is unauthorized by the Lord Jesus Christ is to teach and practice that which is without divine authority!

Faith. In Galatians 1:23, Paul was said to have preached the faith. What did Paul preach, when he preached the faith? Galatians 2:2 says he preached the gospel. Thus, the faith is the gospel, and there is but one gospel. Any “gospel” other than the one true gospel is a perversion (Galatians 1:6-9), by which one cannot be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-2), called (2 Thessalonians 2:14; Colossians 3:15) or begotten (1 Corinthians 4:15; 1 Peter 1:3).

Baptism. Paul wrote, “for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13). However many Spirits and bodies there are is how many baptisms there are - just one! The one baptism is based upon gospel teaching (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15), faith

(Mark 16:16), repentance (Acts 2:38) and confession of faith (Acts 8:37). It is an immersion in water (Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-4). It is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) or to “wash away thy sins” (Acts 22:16). It puts one “into Christ” (Galatians 3:27). Any baptism other than the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5 has no validity today.

God. Though there be many gods, “there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things” (1 Corinthians 8:5). There has always been, and always will be, just one true God (1 Kings 18; Isaiah 40-48). Any other god is “a god that cannot save” (Isaiah 45:20).

Our plea is no body but the one body, no spirit but the one Spirit, no hope but the one hope, no lord but the one Lord, no faith but the one faith, no baptism but the one baptism and no god but the one God. The plea for the seven ones of Ephesians 4:4-6 is the plea for unity, “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3). This will bring about unity in worship (one God), unity in authority (one Lord), unity in message (one faith), unity in practice (one baptism), unity in organization (one body), and unity in life, desire and expectation (one Spirit and one hope). There is no other basis of unity, true Bible unity.

Miracles of Healing

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There is a notable difference between New Testament miracles of healing and the “miracles of healing” purported today. Take note of some different kinds of miracles of healing in New Testament days:

Leprosy (Matthew 8:2-3).

Palsy (Matthew 9:2-8).

Blindness and speechlessness (Matthew 12:22).

Missing limbs (Matthew 15:30-31).

Deafness and speech impediment (Mark 7:32-37).

A great fever (Luke 4:38-39).

A withered hand (Luke 6:6-11).

A blood hemorrhage (Luke 8:43-44).

A severed ear (Luke 22:50-51).

We deny that men today possess the power to work miracles of healing as the Lord, His apostles, or those endowed with spiritual gifts in the first century. Is there anyone willing to publicly affirm that they have such power? We challenge you to come forward and do what these did. As goes the proposition, so must be the demonstration!

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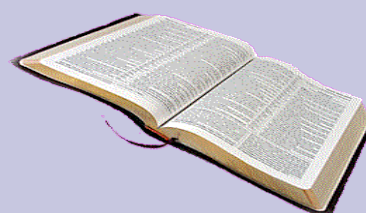
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