

IS UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS POSSIBLE TODAY?

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QUESTION: Is unity among believers, as Jesus prayed in John 17:20-21, actually possible today?

ANSWER: Yes, if all who believe will follow what the Bible teaches! Paul reveals seven “ones” in Ephesians 4:4-6 that we are to believe so unity will exist.

First, “There is one body.” The body is the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23). While there are many local churches (God’s people meeting in different geographic locations), these churches must be the same in doctrine and practice. This is why Paul could “teach every where in every church” in the First Century (1Corinthians 4:17).

Second, “there is one Spirit.” The Holy Spirit revealed and confirmed the total truth through the apostles (John 14:26; 16:13). The Spirit demands that Christians defend and guard the truth (Jude 3; 2 John 9-11).

Third, “called in one hope of your calling.” The hope is heaven (Hebrews 6:18, 19) and this installs unity, not division (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

Fourth, “One Lord.” There is only one Jesus and he is Lord (Acts 2:36). As Lord (kurios), he demands man’s obedience to his teachings (Luke 6:46; John 12:48).

Fifth, “one faith.” This is the gospel system (Jude 3). Luke wrote, “and a great company of priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7). The New Testament is the Christian’s belief system; every thing else is condemned (Matthew 15:1 ff). Man is forbidden to change “the faith” (Galatians 1:6-9; Revelations 22:18, 19).

Sixth, “one baptism.” There are several baptisms mentioned in the New Testament: the baptism of John, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the baptism introduced in Acts 2. However, when Paul wrote the book of Ephesians, there was only ONE baptism. This is the universal baptism in water for the remission of sins, as set forth in the Great Commission and exemplified throughout the New Testament (Mk. 16:15, 16; Acts 2: 38). Peter said, “Baptism doth now also save us” (1 Peter. 3:20, 21).

Seventh, “one God.” The Godhead is made up of three separate deities: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are one in unison and purpose (John 14:8 ff).

These seven foundational principles provide the unity upon which each Christian should stand. Jesus continues to pray for unity today (John 17:20).

If there are any questions you want answered, please send to the address below. If you would like to study the Bible, please send for a free Bible correspondence course, Hartselle Church of Christ, PO Box 741, Hartselle AL, 35640