



Unity In Christ – Part 2

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When considering the possibility of obtaining the unity of which Jesus prayed, we must understand the only way we can obtain it is by following the pattern of the New Testament and depart from all man-made doctrines which are foreign to the Word of God. Christ desired unity, not just union. We noted in our previous article that God hates division (Proverbs 6:16-19). Now, let us consider that God not only hates division, but He also has a plan for us to obtain the unity He desires. Let us notice what is included in that plan.

God's plan includes a church; the church of which Jesus spoke in Matthew chapter 16. After Peter had made his confession that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (verse 16), Jesus said, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Notice a few things about this statement made by Jesus. Jesus used the personal pronoun when He referred to the church; therefore, it belongs to Him. It is the church belonging to Christ or church of Christ. Also, notice he referred to it in the singular, "church" and not plural "churches." He said, "the gates of Hades shall not prevail against **it**," not "them." Allow me to illustrate this with the following statement: "I am going to build **my house** on this lot, and nothing is going to stop me from building **it**." We can learn a few unmistakable truths from this, as well as from Jesus' statement. Whose house am I going to build? How many houses am I going to build? Now apply this to Jesus statement. Whose church did He build? How many did He build? Jesus built His church and He only built one and it wears His name.

In Ephesians 4:3-6, Paul wrote concerning unity. In this passage, he listed seven things which there are only "one." The first "one" mentioned is that there is only "one body." What is

this “one body?” Let God’s Word answer this question: “And He [God] put all things under His [Christ’s] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to **the church, which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23; Compare Colossians 1:18). Christ is the head of the body (the church) and the body is subject unto Him (He has all authority, Matthew 28:18). There is a clear parallel between Christ’s spiritual body and our physical body. A body with more than one head is a mutation and so is a head with many bodies. We have one head with only one body, thus it is so with Christ’s spiritual body, the church.

At the West Jefferson Church of Christ, we strive for the unity for which Jesus prayed and to be the one body of which Christ is the head. We can only do that by closely following the pattern of the New Testament, which is our only source of authority. If you would like to study further with us from God’s Word by either an in-home open Bible study or correspondence course my mail, please print & return this coupon to: Back To The Bible; 221 Barnett Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit our website @ www.wjchurchofchrist.org.

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