

BECAUSE GOD IS ONE...

Oneness in Christ stems from the oneness of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The unity which Christians are called to seek is not a conformity to the world, nor is it an acceptance of religious relativism. Like the Son of God, it is an endeavor of emptying ourselves in order to do and to uphold the heavenly will.

Because God is one there is **one faith** (Ephesians 4:5). Obviously all people do not believe the same thing, nor hold to one faith, but the truth reveals that there is but one. It is the faith that came with the coming of the Messiah (Galatians 3:23, 25); the once for all delivered faith (Jude 3); and the faith of the gospel that has been preached (Colossians 1:23).

Because God is one there is **one baptism** (4:5). The one baptism is that which the Lord Jesus Christ commanded to be preached to all and obeyed (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:16). It is the one that washes away sins (Acts 22:16); the one that saves (1 Peter 3:21). The apostle Paul corrected the misunderstanding of some disciples about baptism, and those believers were then baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 19:3-5).

Because God is one there is **one body** (Ephesians 4:4). The one body of Christ is the one church that He built, and Jesus is the Head and Savior of her (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Matthew 16:18). Denominationalism promotes different beliefs, different doctrines and different baptisms under the guise that such division is acceptable. God reconciled through the cross "*in one body*" (Ephesians 2:16).

Because God is one there is **one hope** (4:4). The one faith and one baptism that puts a believer into the one body anchors the saved in one hope. Since Jesus has entered heaven as a forerunner for us, heirs of God's promise have a sure and steadfast hope (Hebrews 6:19). It is a living hope of obtaining an imperishable inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4). There are not different hopes. There is one access to heaven where God is.