

ONENESS AND GOD

The spiritual calling in Christ demands Christians to preserve diligently *"the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"* (Ephesians 4:3). This endeavor and walk entails cultivating a Christ-like attitude of loving humility, gentleness and patience (4:1-2), as well as adhering to the divinely revealed measure of oneness (4:4-6).

In the world there are multiple religions, philosophies and beliefs about who god is, about what is god, and even about there being no god. Clearly, the world is not united. Division has made deep cuts among men. All cannot be truth. All beliefs are not equally good either. The world's different beliefs do not harmonize, are not in agreement, nor do they complement one another.

The word of truth that has come to us through Jesus Christ lays down the foundation for the unity that is from above. True oneness stems from the oneness of Deity. There is *"one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all"* (Ephesians 4:6). As Paul preached in Athens, he pointed out that *"God who made the world and all things in it"* is the one God of heaven and earth (Acts 17:24). That one God and Creator is contrasted to the many objects of worship the Athenians had. Idolatry promotes the philosophies of many lifeless gods, but there is *"a living and true God,"* whom we are to serve (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

God the Father sent His Son to the earth. He was *"from the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14). Before He came He *"was with God"* (1:1). It was revealed that this Son would be called Jesus and Immanuel - that is *"God with us"* (Matthew 1:21, 23). While in the flesh, *"all the fullness of Deity"* dwelt in Him (Colossians 2:9). Having fulfilled all things concerning the Messiah, God the Father made His Son - the crucified Jesus - *"both Lord and Christ"* (Acts 2:36). Therefore, He is the *"one Lord"* (Ephesians 4:5), who has been given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).

The *"one Spirit"* (Ephesians 4:4) is the Holy Spirit, who *"searches all things, even the depths of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:10). Jesus promised the apostles that He would ask the Father to give them the Helper, the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17). Thus the one Holy Spirit guided apostles and prophets into all the truth (John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:21). And all believers are commanded now to be baptized *"in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19). Acceptable unity is not attained without upholding the oneness of the Father, Son and Spirit.