

## **The Oneness of True Believers**

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1987

### **Ephesians 4:4-6**

*“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

I’m speaking to you today on the subject: “THE ONENESS OF TRUE BELIEVERS.” I’m reading from Ephesians Chapter 4: We will read verses 4, 5 and 6. I want you to listen most carefully to the reading of the Scriptures. There are seven things which stand out boldly on this subject, “The Oneness of Believers.”

*“There is one body and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in you all.”*

Men have endeavored for centuries to bring religious people together. There have been a number of ecumenical movements to get denominations, churches and professed Christians together under one umbrella or one group to head into one direction.

This is what they say in their efforts to get religious people together, “We all believe in one God and we all believe in life after death. We are all going to the same place, so why should there be any divisions among us? Let us unite together to win the world to Christianity.”

My friends, listen to me, it will never be done; despite all the efforts of all of the organizations and people of all generations and ages, to get religious people to together, unification will never be done.

There are a thousand reasons why it will never be done. Here is the chief reason; religious people will never be together as one because they are not one. They are divided over the essentials of faith. The very things that I read to you a few moments ago are where they are divided.

These are the essentials of faith. *“There is one body, there is one spirit, there is one hope, there is one Lord, there is one faith, one baptism and one God.”* This is where they are all divided. They will never be one.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the definition of true faith and eternal life; He said, *“This is life eternal that they might know Thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.”*

These people who know the true and living God, these people who know Jesus Christ, whom He hath sent, they are one and they are not divided. True believers have never been divided. They have always been one in Christ. They have always been one, they are one now and they always will be one. That is true!

I’m not talking about religious people. I’m not talking about professing Christians. I’m not talking about churches and denominations. I am saying that every true believer, every converted, redeemed person in Christ are one. They always have been one; they are one now and always will be one. They have never been divided.

In John Chapter 17, our Lord is praying His high Priestly prayer. This is holy ground and this is the Master praying. He is talking to the Father concerning His church, His people. He says in John 17:20, *“Neither pray I for these alone (talking about His disciples) but I pray for them which shall believe on Me through their word, (shall believe on Me, through their Word) that they all may be one as Thou Father art in Me.”*

That is a special oneness, isn’t it? That these believers, these who believe the Word, who believe on Christ, through the preaching of the Word, are one. That is some oneness that *“they may be one as Thou Father, art in Me and I in Thee, that they may be one in us, I in them and Thou in Me that they be perfect in one.”* Believers are one exactly as the Father and the Son are one and can never be separated.

They have always been one and are one now. True believers are all one. You see, true believers are not one because they are under one law. That doesn’t bring them together. It is not the rules and regulations of religion that bring believers into one.

Believers are not one because they read one book. Every religious man in the world reads the Bible. Believers are not one because they believe in one God. James said, *“You believe in one God, you do well; the devil believes in one God and trembles.”*

Believers are one because they are one in Christ Jesus. That is the reason that they are one. Christ is not divided. *“I in them and thou in Me, that they be made perfect in one.”* That was Christ’s prayer for His people; *“I in them, Christ in us and us in Christ and the Father in Christ, undivided.”*

You see, Paul said in Ephesians Chapter 1: verses 3 through 7; *“We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ, according as He chose us in Christ. He predestinated us to be like Christ and we are accepted in Christ, the beloved: In whom we have redemption in Christ, the forgiveness of sin that in the fullness of time God will gather together all things in Christ.”*

Is Christ divided? Can you imagine such a thing? Christ is not divided. Well, all who are in Christ are not divided; that is an impossibility. Is the Godhead divided, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? They are one.

If the spirit of God dwelleth in you and Christ dwells in you and Christ says, *“I and My Father will take up abode in you”* and He is in me, how can we be divided? How can we be headed in two different directions and believe two different things?

Believers are one and true believers are one because Christ is one. Listen to this in 1 John 4: 7 and 8, *“Beloved; let us love one another; for love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God.”* The one who truly loves is born of God and knows God.

*“He that loveth not; he knoweth not God.”* He may profess to love God but he doesn't know God because *“God is love.”* To know God is to have love. *“It is to have the love of God shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit.”* If there are no evidences of the love of God being in you, then God is not in you.

Those who are born of God love God. Those who are born of God love Christ and they believe Christ. Those who are born of God love God's Word. There is no question about it. They are separated to the Gospel.

I've heard people say, “Well, he's a Christian that really loves the Lord.” That is the only kind of Christian that there is. I've heard other people say, “She's a praying Christian.” There is no other kind of Christian.

All true believers pray. You might as well expect a human being to live without breathing as a child of God to live without praying.

I've heard people say, “Well, he's a giving Christian.” There is no other kind. “He's dedicated to God,” there's no other kind. They are religious people but they are not Christians, who don't love, pray, give and are not dedicated to God.

You see, those who love God; love God's Word. Those who are born of God love the truth. Those who are born of God love one another and there is no question about it.

*“Beloved; let us love one another for love is of God. It is a gift of God and it is the gift of God and the grace of God. It is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit.”*

That is what I have been trying to say on this program for nearly 14 years. Salvation is coming to a person, not to the front of the church. Salvation is to receive Christ, not the hand shaking of a preacher. Salvation is regeneration and a new birth and is not a decision. Salvation is to know God and not to know doctrine. That’s right!

In our text, Ephesians 4: (I read it to you a few minutes ago); Paul gives seven reasons why all true believers are one. They are not endeavoring to be one, not putting forth an activity to become one, but they are one. It doesn’t matter if they are in Mexico, Canada, Australia, France, Spain or America; they are all one in Christ and they have always been one.

They were chosen in Christ, predestinated to be like Christ and have their inheritance in Christ. It is like what Paul said in Galatians 1: *“It pleased God who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me by His grace to reveal His Son in me.”*

I ask you, Is Christ divided? He certainly is not. He is one with His church. So are His true people and so is His family, every true believer. They may not even know one another but when they meet they are one.

Here are the seven reasons why all true believers are one in Christ!

First of all: He says, *“There is one body.”* What is this body? This body is the church. There are many local churches. We are not talking here of local churches or local assemblies; we are talking about that one family, that one body, that one church, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are no tares in this church, no hypocrites in this church and no false professors in this church. Everybody in this church is in Christ because He is the Head. Christ is not a monster. He does not have a whole lot of different bodies; there is One Head and One body, His church.

His body (His church) is a perfect body. His body is without stain or spot; it is without blemish or wrinkle. In Colossians 1:18 it says; *“Christ is the head of the body, the church who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things, He might have the preeminence.”*

Ephesians 5:23 says, *“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is head of the church. Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.”* It does not say, “for them.” It says, “for it” (His church). *“...That He might present it to Himself a glorious church having neither spot nor wrinkle.”* It is the church of the firstborn whose names are written in heaven.

As I said, there are no tares, there are no hypocrites and there are no false professors in this church. *“There is neither Greek nor Jew, there is neither male nor female, and there is neither rich nor poor.”* There is one church, one body and one family; Christ is the Head. They are one. They are in the body of Christ. Is the body of Christ divided? Certainly not!

Second: Not only is there one body but there is *“one Spirit.”* My friends; this is the Holy Spirit of God. Listen carefully to me; the Bible says, *“If any man hath not the Spirit of Christ; he is none of His.”*

We have people who say that they have been saved but they are seeking the Holy Spirit. How are you saved without the Holy Spirit when the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and He is the Spirit of Christ? *“If any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”*

Listen to this; *“By one Spirit are we baptized into the body of Christ.”* How did you get into the body of Christ without having the Holy Spirit? Maybe you are not in the body of Christ at all. Maybe it is not the Holy Spirit that you are seeking but an experience that you are seeking.

There is just one body. If a person is saved he is in that family, that body and that church. How did he get there? He was baptized, immersed and submerged into that body by the Holy Spirit. That is what the Word says. *“No man can call Jesus Lord but by the Holy Spirit.”*

So, there is one Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God is the spirit that regenerates us. The Bible says, *“We are born of the Holy Spirit; we are born of God, born from above, born of the Spirit and born of the Word.”*

Not only does the Holy Spirit regenerate believers but He convicts us of sin. Our Lord says in John 16, *“When he is come, (the Holy Spirit) he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”* All of this conviction has to do with Christ; it is related to Christ.

The Holy Spirit not only convinces us of sin, but the Holy Spirit reveals Christ. Our Lord said, *“When He is come; He will take the things of mine and show them to you.”* He will not speak of Himself, but of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is God’s Gospel concerning Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Holy Spirit leads us to Christ.

*“He shall not speak of Himself but He shall speak what He hears. He shall not glorify himself; He shall glorify Me,”* He said. It is the Holy Spirit that reveals Christ. The Holy Spirit is our teacher. *“He will take the things of Mine and show them to you.”*

The Holy Spirit seals us. *“He is our earnest, our pledge.”* That is what Paul says in Ephesians. He is not the Spirit of confusion. There’s another spirit; *“Try the spirits whether they be of God.”* There is an evil spirit, a foreign spirit, another spirit. Paul said, *“They will come and preach another jesus, another gospel and another spirit.”*

They will come and preach another spirit that attracts attention to a false gospel, a spirit that lauds and exalts the righteousness of the flesh. The Holy Spirit exalts Christ and glorifies Christ. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ and honors Christ.

In the Holy Spirit, there is no confusion and no division; He is the Spirit of Truth, one Spirit. Believers are one because they are in one body. They are indwelt by one Spirit.

Third: *“There is one hope of your calling.”* You see, salvation is a calling to Christ. Salvation is called, *“The Holy calling.”* Salvation is called, *“The called of Christ Jesus.”* You see; God is calling out a people for His name. Paul says, *“He called you by our Gospel.”* Again, Paul says; *“Do you see your calling brethren?”*

Salvation is a calling and here He says, *“one hope of your calling.”* There is one hope of that calling of which you are a participant, a recipient. What is that hope? In 1 John 3: verses 2 and 3 it says; *“Beloved, right now are we sons of God. It doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that when He shall appear, (when Jesus Christ shall appear), we shall be like Him.”*

I would like for you to underscore that. *“When He shall appear, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is and every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself.”* What hope? This hope is to be like Him. *“When He shall appear, we shall be like Him. Every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself.”* Christ in you that is the hope of glory!

If I were going to write a paper on the hope of the believer and the hope of glory and the hope of life eternal, I would write one word, Christ. Christ is my hope; *“He is the hope of glory.”*

My friends; there are no degrees in glory. I don't hope to have a bigger crown than yours or a bigger mansion than you. There is no greed or covetousness among the family of God; *“He that would be greatest among you, let him be your servant. The first shall be last and the last shall be first.”* There are no degrees in glory.

Those who preach degrees in glory, larger crowns or dwelling places of others hasn't met Christ yet; he doesn't have the Spirit of Christ or the humility and mind of Christ. *“All shall be like Christ.”* I can't be any greater than that! *“When we shall see Him; we shall be like Him.”* What is better than that? What is greater than that?

Every believer is going to be like Christ. We will all love the same, be redeemed the same and all are going to be like Him. Anyone who aspires to anything higher than that does not know God. Anyone who would be satisfied with any less than that has a problem; we are going to be like Him.

Fourth: He says, *“There is one Lord.”* This is why we are one, because we have one Lord. Believers are brothers and they love one another, respect one another, help one another and learn from one another. We exhort one another.

We only have one Lord, one Master and one King and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. We bow to no man. We do obedience to no man, only Christ and He is the Lord. He said, *“Call no man Father; you have one Father. Call no man Master; one is your Master, all ye are brethren.”*

Jesus Christ is Lord by God's eternal decree. *“God made Him Lord.”* That is what Peter said at Pentecost; *“God hath made this same Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.”* He is not only Lord by eternal decree but He is Lord by creation. The Word says, *“All things were made by Him, through Him and for Him.”*

He is Lord by death; *“He died that He may be Lord of the dead and the living.”* I'm talking about the lost and the saved. There is a day coming when *“every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”*

He is Lord by faith and confession; *“If thou shall confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”* Are you with me?

Fifth: Believers are one because there is “*one faith.*” I received a letter from a pastor one time from a Baptist church. I wrote and requested a letter from someone who had united with our church. He wrote me back and said that they didn’t grant letters to churches except those that are of the same faith.

What was the man’s problem? There is just one faith, one Lord. There is one faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There may be small faith and great faith, weak faith and strong faith. There may be early faith and late faith but there is one faith; they have the same author. “*He is the author and finisher of our faith.*”

You are not the author of faith. Faith didn’t spring up in your garden. Faith is the plant of God. Faith is the gift of God. That is what is said in Ephesians 2: “*By grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works less any man should boast.*”

You see; this faith, this “*one faith,*” has the same author, “*Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith.*” It has the same object; “*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life. He that believeth not the Son shall not see life.*”

I don’t care whether you are Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Nazarene, Catholic or whatever you are; any man who knows God knows Him in Christ. Any man who is redeemed believes on the Lord Jesus Christ.

All who do not believe on Christ and love Christ and receive Christ and rest in Christ are unsaved. I don’t care where you live, what you profess or how you act or how you worship or what you do. “*He that believeth on the Son hath life and He that believeth not the Son shall never see life.*”

You see; this faith rises out of the same need that we are sinners. “*Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.*” This faith has the same foundation; the Word of God. The Scripture says, “*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*”

David and Paul both said, “*I believe; therefore, I have spoken.*” What did they believe? They believed the Word of God. This faith has the same rest. Then, the Word says that the believers are one in Christ. The Lord said, “*Come unto Me and I will give you rest.*” Christ is our rest.



Sixth: There is *“one baptism.”* Many people believe that this is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, not a second work of grace because there is nothing better than Christ. *“Christ is all and is in all. He that hath the Son hath life; we are complete in Him.”*

We are all baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit. We are baptized by the Spirit into one body. That is what a lot of people believe that this *“one baptism”* is. It may be so, because every believer is baptized and immersed into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

There is also one water baptism that is revealed in Scriptures and in the Gospel; it is by immersion and it is for believers. He said, *“Go ye into all the world; teach all nations and baptize them; make disciples and baptize them.”*

He said, *“Go into all the world; preach the Gospel and He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”* Baptism is only for believers. You don't baptize an unconscious (insensible) person; it is for believers.

The Eunuch said, *“Here is water; what doth hindereth me from being baptized?”* Phillip said, *“If you believe on Christ, you can, if you don't believe, you can't.”*

Baptism follows faith; it is a confession of faith; it is identification with Christ and it is a declaration of our death, burial and resurrection. How can you declare something that hasn't taken place? Baptism is for believers. The very word immersed means that it is a death, a burial and a resurrection.

Lastly: *“There is one baptism, one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and **one God.**”* What is He like? He is the Father of all believers and He is above all. They said, *“David, where is your God?”* He said, *“He is in the heavens.”* What is He like; *“He hath done whatsoever He pleased?”*

This *“one God”* is above all. He is above all angels, above all creatures, all men, all events, all actions, all deeds and all ages. He is a sovereign God and in all things such as creation, providence and salvation.

He is above all and answers to none; *“None can stay His hand or say unto Him what doest Thou?”* He is through all. That is, by His providence, He accomplishes all things. *“By Him all things consist. All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.”* The reason is because He works it that way and He is in you and dwells in you.

Believers are one. God the Father dwells in them. Unless God is divided, how can they be divided if God is in them? Listen to Ephesians 4: Read it again, there is “*One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God.*”