

THE POWER OF ONE



YAW 2012

ANNUAL YOUNG ADULT WEEKEND

BARRIE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Friday May 4th - Sunday May 6th

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Barrie Church of Christ
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(Ages 18 – 35)

THE POWER OF ONE

Y.A.W. SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 4TH

7:00 PM REGISTRATION
8:00 PM SONG SERVICE

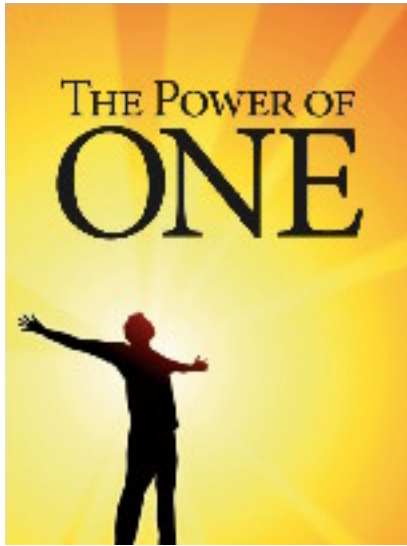
SATURDAY, MAY 5TH

10:00 AM LATE REGISTRATION
11:00 AM LESSON #1
 "One Calling, One Body, One, Spirit"
12:00 PM LUNCH
1:00 PM SINGING
2:00 PM ORGANIZED ACTIVITY
5:00 PM DINNER
6:30 PM LESSON #2
 "One Hope & One Faith"

SUNDAY, MAY 6TH

10:00 AM ADULT BIBLE CLASS
 LESSON #3
 "One Baptism"
11:00 AM MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
 LESSON #4
 "One Lord, One God, One Father"

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Ray Reynolds is the pulpit minister of the Gulf Shores Church of Christ in Gulf Shores, Alabama where he has served since November 2007. He has been in the ministry for nearly 16 years and has worked in Alabama, Tennessee and Idaho. He and his wife, Sarah, have three boys: Luke, Seth, and Izak. Ray has Bachelor of Arts and Master of Ministry degrees from Heritage Christian University and also a Ph.D. from Trinity Theological Seminary. He is the Founder and Director of T.I.T.U.S. Camp (Teens in Training for Useful Service) at Heritage Christian University in Florence, Alabama, which trains 70 teenagers each summer for full-time ministry. He has authored several Bible class books and his dissertation on "Mentoring Methods in the Churches of Christ" was recently printed by Trinity Press. He also teaches part-time at Alabama Gulf Coast Christian Academy in Summerdale, AL, coaches soccer and baseball for Gulf Shores, and volunteers as a chaplain for South Baldwin Regional Medical Center in Foley, AL.



LESSON ONE: One Calling, One Body, One Spirit

Lesson by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction: The church should take a second glance at the need for fellowship and unity. If we read the New Testament, we can see that the early church was united. The difference between being "united" and "untied" can be seen when the "I" is out of place. If you and I can see that we make a difference, everything changes. We need to consider a renewed perspective toward unity in the Lord's church. One way to do that is to return to Bible and see God's pattern. How can we see the "power of one" today? We start by noticing the Lord's pattern for one body and for one spirit. Let's begin by reading our text and we will begin our study.....

Discussion:

I. The Power of One Comes From ONE CALLING

Our Calling is a Source of Pride

- II Peter 1:10, Jeremiah 29:11, Galatians 6:11-15

Our Calling is a Source of Pleasure

- Psalm 133:1-3, I Corinthians 12:1-12, Matthew 5:9, II Corinthians 5:18-19

Our Calling is a Source of Our Position

- Philippians 2:1-2, I John 4:4, 5:2, I Peter 2:9

II. The Power of One Comes From ONE BODY

What Is The Body?

- B = Believers - Acts 2:40-47
- O = Organized - I Corinthians 14:26-40
- D = Disciples - Acts 6:1-7
- Y = Yearning - James 1:4-10

What Are Gifts?

- G = Grace - Ephesians 2:4-7
- I = Involvement - Ephesians 6:10-20
- F = Fellowship - Ephesians 5:14-21
- T = Time - Ephesians 2:19-22
- S = Sacrifice - Ephesians 4:30-32

What Is Ministry?

- M = Membership - Romans 12:1-13
- I = Involvement - Matthew 25:14-3
- N = Necessity - Acts 2:40-47, 6:1-7
- I = Influence - Philippians 2:5
- S = Salvation - Luke 19:9-10
- T = Training - Titus 2:1-8
- R = Rewards - II Timothy 4:6-8
- Y = You - II Corinthians 4:1-18

Why Should We Unwrap Our Gifts?

- It clarifies God's will for us and gives us purpose (**I Corinthians 12:1**).
- It motivates personal responsibility to do God's will (**I Peter 4:10**).
- It maximizes our impact as an individual and as a church (**I Corinthians 12:18-20**).
- It establishes the individual value of each person in the Body (**I Corinthians 12:21-22**).

What Can You Do To Discover Your Gifts?

- Explore the possibilities of the Body (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
- Evaluate the needs of the Body (**I Corinthians 12:7**).
- Expect confirmation from the Body (**I Timothy 4:14-15**).

What Are Some Pitfalls You Should Avoid?

- Do NOT seek confusion, but order (**I Corinthians 12:1-2, 14:33, 40**).
- Do NOT exalting certain gifts over others, but see them all as equal (**Romans 12:3-6**).
- Do NOT focus on the activity, but rather the motivation for it (**I Corinthians 13**).

III. The Power of One Comes From ONE SPIRIT

What Is The Spiritual Nature of the Body?

- The church worships in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**).
- The Body has spiritual characteristics (**Ephesians 4:1-3**).
- Individual Christians have spiritual characteristics (**Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:1-8**).

What Is The Spiritual Nature of Unity?

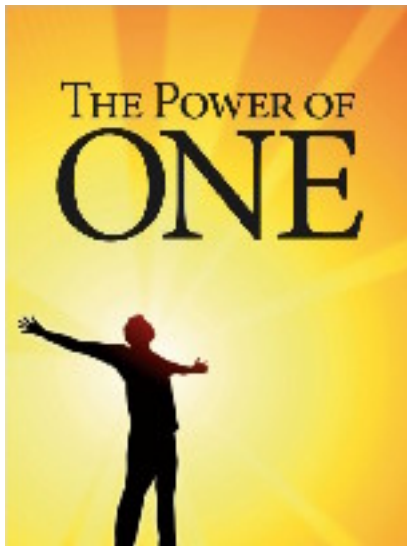
- Unity is a personal choice (**Romans 11:29, Ephesians 1:18**).
- Unity is prayer-driven (**John 17:1ff, I Corinthians 1:10**).
- Unity is praiseworthy (**Philippians 1:3-11, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16**).
- Unity is peaceful (**Philippians 4:7, Matthew 18:15-18, Matthew 5:9**).
- Unity is practical (**I Corinthians 1:10, Amos 3:3**).
- Unity is painful (**Romans 12:9-16, Galatians 6:1-2**).

What Can One Spirit Change Us?

- God's Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out.
Romans 8: 1-30, Acts 2:38-39, I Corinthians 6:19-20
- God's Holy Spirit produced super-natural gifts in the first century (temporary).
Wisdom: **I Corinthians 2:4-7; 12:8; II Peter 3:15**
Knowledge: **I Corinthians 12:8; 13:8**
Faith: **I Corinthians 12:9; 13:2; Matthew 17:19-21**
Prophecy: **John 14:26; 16:13; I Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 3:5; Acts 21:9**
Distinguishing of Spirits: **Acts 16:16-18; I Corinthians 12:9; I John 4:1**
Healings: **I Corinthians 12:9; Acts 3:1-10, James 5:14-15**
Miracles: **Acts 20:9-12; 28:3-6; I Corinthians 12:10**
Tongues: **Acts 2:7-18; I Corinthians 12:10; 12:27-28; 14:22; Acts 2:6-8**
Interpretation of tongues: **I Corinthians 12:10; 14:13,28**

- God's Holy Spirit produces natural gifts in the church today.
 Prophecy: **Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11**
 Serving: **Acts 20:19; Romans 12:7; 12:11; Galatians 5:13**
 Teaching: **Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 14:6; Colossians 3:16; II Timothy 4:2**
 Exhortation: **Romans 12:8; I Corinthians 14:3; I Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 13:22**
 Giving: **Romans 12:8; Philippians 4:15; I Corinthians 16:1-4; II Corinthians 8-9**
 Leadership: **Acts 28:17; Romans 12:8; I Timothy 3:1-8; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4**
 Mercy: **Romans 12:8; II Corinthians 4:1; James 2:13; 3:17**
 Love: **Romans 12:9; I Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:13; Hebrews 10:24; I Peter 3:8**
- God's Holy Spirit produces fruit in the lives of believers.
 Love: **John 13:34-35, Romans 5:8; Galatians 5:22; I Corinthians 13:1-13**
 Joy: **John 15:11; Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22; Philippians 1:2,7; 4:4**
 Peace: **Romans 16:20; Galatians 5:22; I Thessalonians 5:23-24, II Timothy 2:22**
 Patience: **Romans 2:4; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:9-12; I Timothy 1:17**
 Kindness: **Romans 2:3-4; 12:10; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 3:12-17**
 Goodness: **Romans 15:14; Galatians 5:22; II Thessalonians 1:11-12; Titus 3:4-5**
 Faithfulness: **Romans 3:3; Galatians 5:22; I Corinthians 4:14-17; II Timothy 2:2**
 Gentleness: **Romans 12:16; Galatians 5:23; II Corinthians 10:1; Philippians 4:5-7**
 Self-control: **Romans 6:20-23; Galatians 5:23; I Corinthians 7:5,9; Titus 2:1-6**
- God's Holy Spirit causes us to grow.
Romans 12: 4-8, I Corinthians 12:12-30, Ephesians 2:14-18, I Timothy 2:5

Conclusion: Have you been called? Are you walking in a way that could be said it is "worthy" of your calling? You need to get comfortable with your story. Why are you here? What is your purpose? What are your gifts? What is your role in the Body of Christ? Are you strong in the Spirit?



LESSON TWO: One Hope & One Faith

Lesson by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction: The Lord's pattern for unity is clearly identified in Scripture. Paul urges the church to seek one calling, one body, and one spirit. But, he also identifies the need for one hope and one faith. While he has already addressed the need for love, one cannot help but reflect on **I Corinthians 13** and Paul's challenges for the church at Corinth to pursue spiritual maturity. What comes to your mind when you hear the word: hope? What about the word: faith? In this second lesson, I would like for us to consider these two precious thoughts. We will reflect on why these two elements are essential if the church is to be one. Let's begin by reading our text and we will begin our study.....

Discussion:

I. *The Power of One Comes From ONE HOPE*

What's So Special About Our One Hope?

- This one hope is a glorious hope (**Romans 5:1-5**).
- This one hope is an abounding hope (**Romans 15:13-14**).
- This one hope is an abiding hope (**I Corinthians 13:13**).
- This one hope is a bold hope (**II Corinthians 3:12**).
- This one hope is a calling hope (**Ephesians 1:15-18**).
- This one hope is a saving hope (**I Thessalonians 5:8**).
- This one hope is a blessed hope (**Titus 2:13**).

What Else Does Paul Say About This One Hope?

- There is hope because Jesus is coming (**I Thessalonians 4:15**).
- There is hope because the resurrection is coming (**I Thessalonians 4:16**).
- There is hope because heaven is coming (**I Thessalonians 4:17**).
- There is hope because comfort is coming (**I Thessalonians 4:17**).

What Does John Say About This One Hope?

- There is hope for anyone born of God (**I John 5:18**).
- There is hope for anyone belonging to God (**I John 5:19**).
- There is hope for anyone believing in God (**I John 5:20**).

What Does Peter Say About This One Hope?

- The hope of a Christian is a living hope (**I Peter 1:3**).
- The hope of a Christian is a focused hope (**I Peter 1:13**).
- The hope of a Christian is a secured hope (**I Peter 1:20-21**).
- The hope of a Christian is a challenging hope (**I Peter 3:15-16**).

II. The Power of One Comes From ONE FAITH

What Is Faith?

F.A.I.T.H. = Forsaking All I Trust Him

F = **Matthew 10:35-39, Matthew 16:24, Mark 10:29**

A = **Mark 10:17-27, Luke 14:33, Romans 12:1-2**

I = **Luke 1:37, Romans 10:17, Philippians 4:13**

T = **II Corinthians 1:9-11, II Corinthians 3:4-6, Hebrews 11:1, 6**

H = **John 3:16, Philippians 2:19, I Timothy 4:9**

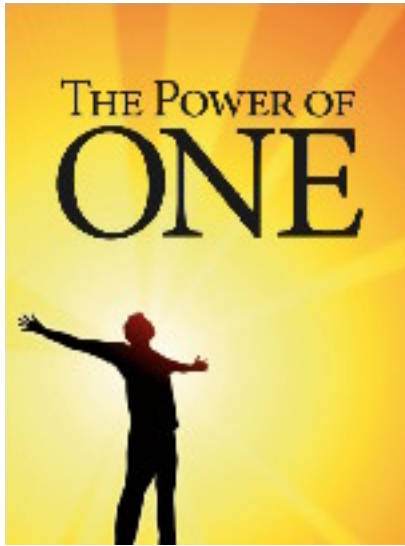
What Kind of a Faith?

- The one faith is a personal faith (**Mark 8:34**).
- The one faith is a public faith (**Mark 8:35**).
- The one faith is a preserving faith (**Mark 8:36**).
- The one faith is a passionate faith (**Mark 8:37**).
- The one faith is a professing faith (**Mark 8:38**).
- The one faith is a playdough faith (**Jeremiah 18:1-6**).

How Does Faith Survive the 21st Century?

- Have you read "Foxes Book of Martyrs" before?
- Read the book of Acts and see what they did to survive.
- We need to remove an elite mindset.
 - Perfection in the Plan (**Matthew 5:48, James 1:17, 2:1-13**)
 - Perfection in the Church (**Hebrews 12:12-14, Matthew 21:31**)
 - Perfection in the Savior (**Philippians 2:15, Matthew 19:21**)
 - Perfection in the Faith (**Matthew 19:21, Matthew 5:29-30**)
 - Perfection in the Correction (**Romans 12:9-10, Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 10:24**)
- We need to remove an egotistic mindset.
 - Selfishness in the World (**Philippians 2:3-4, I John 2:16**)
 - Selflessness in the Church (**John 17:20-21, I Peter 2:9-10**)
 - Selfishness in the Disciples (**John 13:35, John 15:8**)
 - Selfishness in the Light (**John 9:5, Matthew 5:13-17**)
 - Selfishness in the Garbage (**James 1:37, Acts 2:41-47, Acts 4:32-37**)
- We need to remove an evil mindset.
 - Pride Despises God (**Deuteronomy 8:2-3, I Samuel 15:23**)
 - Pride Defiles Man (**Psalms 19:13, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 13:10**)
 - Pride Divides People (**Proverbs 16:18, Proverbs 21:24, I Corinthians 1:10**)
 - Pride Dishonors Life (**Isaiah 14, Philippians 2:5, Proverbs 18:12, Proverbs 29:23**)
 - Pride Destroys Souls (**Proverbs 15:25, Proverbs 16:18-19, Proverbs 29:23**)

Conclusion: **Hebrews 7:24-25** says, "*but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*" This is our great hope. This is our constant motivation. Jesus has blazed the trail! "*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*" (**Hebrews 12:1-2**). Do you need some of that hope today? We cannot afford to let anything quench our spiritual fire! Do you have that a strong faith? The church cannot afford to have weak lengths. Do not ignore the fact that you are valuable in the church. Do you possess the power of one?



LESSON THREE: One Baptism

Lesson by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction: In the fourth chapter of Ephesians, Paul urges the church to seek one calling, one body, one spirit, one hope and one faith. But, he also identifies the need for one baptism. The term "baptism" is seen 22 times in the NT, "baptized" is seen 49 times, and other forms of the word are used frequently. There must be a reason why Paul addresses the need for baptism in this text on unity. In this lesson, we will notice some thoughts on baptism and compare them with the Word of God. It is important that as Christians we recognize God and His Holy Word as the final authority on religious matters. We need to lay aside our opinions. Let's begin by reading our text and we will begin our study....

Discussion:

I. The Method of Baptism

What Is The Method of Baptism?

- Time + Culture = Changes in Terminology
- History + Practice = Clarification
- Past vs. Present

What Did They Believe About The Method of Baptism?

- First century documents can reinforce our understanding of Biblical texts.
- First century documents can give us an accurate description of New Testament practices.
- First century documents contain the word for baptism.
- First century documents confirm the proper definition and practice of baptism.

What Does The Bible Say About The Method of Baptism?

- Clarification about its practice (**Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12**).
- Urgency in its practice (**Acts 2:38, I Peter 3:20-21**).
- Consistency in its practice (**Ephesians 4:5, Acts 2:38, 2:41, 8:12-13, 8:16, 8:36, 8:38, 9:18, 10:47-48, 11:16, 16:15, 16:33, 18:8, 19:3-5, 22:16**).

What Should We Believe About The Method of Baptism?

- Baptism = Immersion
- Immersion = Common Practice (**Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:36, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27, I Peter 3:20-21**).

II. The Views of Baptism

The Baptist View of Baptism (The Hiscox Standard Baptist Manual, Edward T. Hiscox)

“an immersion in water, performed as a sign of the removal of sin” (p. 83)

“Baptism may not be essential to salvation, but it is essential to obedience....Baptism, therefore, is an act of obedience..but it possesses no power in itself to remit sin, to change the heart, or to sanctify the spirit.” (pg. 83-84)

The Presbyterian View of Baptism (The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church)

“Although it be a great sin to contemn or neglect this ordinance [baptism], yet grace and salvation are not so inseparably annexed unto it, as that no person can be regenerated or saved without it....” (pg. 123-124)

“The efficacy of baptism is not tied to that moment when it is administered....” (p. 124)

The Nazarene View of Baptism (The Constitution of the Church of the Nazarene)

“Believing that God has given you forgiveness of sins, and spiritual life through Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour, and that you are thus graciously prepared to receive Christian baptism, as declarative of your saving faith and covenant of obedience, you will now give avowals of your belief and purpose.” (on the “The Sacrament of Baptism,” p. 215)

“Baptism is the external seal of the new covenant of grace.” (on the “The Baptism of Infants,” p. 216)

The Methodist/Episcopal View of Baptism (The Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1910)

“Then shall the minister take each person to be baptized by the right hand; and placing him conveniently by the font, according to his discretion, shall ask the name; and then shall sprinkle or pour water upon him (or, if he shall desire it, immerse him in water), saying: I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (p. 369)

Various Independent Views of Baptism

“It is not the physical act of baptism that saves you....Our salvation is by faith alone, through Christ alone.” (“My Answer,” newspaper column by Billy Graham)

“Baptism is a figure, a symbol, a picture of salvation. It does not save. It declares salvation....For if you put baptism in the plan of salvation you minimize the cross and salvation by grace....” (False Doctrines Answered, by John R. Rice, p. 99, 101)

“Now, I will say, once for all, that all of the external rites and ordinances of the Church, in all ages, have only been *signs* or *pictures* of an inward, invisible grace....There is nothing in any or all of them that can cleanse a soul from sin. That must be done by the power of God’s grace alone.” (Bible Tools for Busy People, by John H. Nichols, p. 132)

III. The Types of Baptism

The Baptism of John

Mark 1:8, John 1:25-27, John 3:22-23, Matthew 3:5-6, Mark 1:4-5, Luke 3:3-4, Luke 7:29-30, Acts 19:3-5

The Baptism of Fire

Matthew 3:11-12, Matthew 25:41, 46, Luke 3:15-17

The Baptism of Suffering

Matthew 20:22-23, Mark 10:38-39, Luke 12:50

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:11-12, Luke 3:15-17, II Thessalonians 1:7-10, Joel 2:28, Acts 2:16-17

The Baptism for the Dead

I Corinthians 15:29

The Baptism of Moses
I Corinthians 10:1-2

The Baptism for the Remission of Sins
Acts 2:37-38, Ephesians 4:4-6

IV. The Examples of Baptism

Scripture References

Baptism = **Matthew 3:7, 20:22, 20:23, 21:25, Mark 1:4, 10:38-39, 11:30, Luke 3:3, 7:29, 12:50, 20:4, Acts 1:22, 10:37, 13:24, 18:25, 19:3-4, Romans 6:4, Ephesians 4:5, Colossians 2:12, I Peter 3:21**

Baptisms = **Hebrews 6:2**

Baptize = **Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:25-26, 1:33, 4:2, I Corinthians 1:17**

Baptized = **Matthew 3:6, 3:13-14, 3:16, 20:22-23, Mark 1:5, 1:8-9, 10:38-39, 16:16, Luke 3:7, 3:12, 3:21, 7:29-30, 12:50, John 3:22-23, Acts 1:5, 2:38, 2:41, 8:12-13, 8:16, 8:36, 8:38, 9:18, 10:47-48, 11:16, 16:15, 16:33, 18:8, 19:3-5, 22:16, Romans 6:3, I Corinthians 1:13-16, 10:2, 12:13, 15:29, Galatians 3:27**

Baptizes = **John 1:33**

Baptizing = **Matthew 28:19, Mark 1:4, John 1:28, 1:31, 3:23, 3:26, 10:40**

Stories of Baptism & Conversion

Jesus = **Matthew 3:7**

Jews on Pentecost = **Acts 2:38, 2:41**

Samaritans = **Acts 8:12-13, 8:16**

Ethiopian Eunuch = **Acts 8:36, 8:38**

Saul of Tarsus = **Acts 9:18, 22:16**

Cornelius & His Guests = **Acts 10:47-48, 11:16**

Lydia & Her Household = **Acts 16:15**

Philippian Jailer & His Household = **Acts 16:33**

Corinthians = **Acts 18:8**

Ephesians = **Acts 19:3-5**

Related Examples

The Consecration of Aaron & His Sons = **Leviticus 8:6**

The Cleansing of Naaman = **II Kings 5:10, 14**

The Uncleanliness of Israel = **Ezekiel 16:4, 9**

The Dialogue with Nicodemus = **John 3:1-21**

Scriptures About Being Washed & Cleansed = **I Corinthians 6:11, Hebrews 10:22, Revelation 1:5**

V. The Purpose of Baptism

The Power of the Word of God

Who commanded faith, repentance, confession? (**John 8:24, Luke 13:3, 5, Matthew 10:32**)

Who commanded baptism? (**Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:19-20**)

Why would any of these commands be any different?

The Consistency of the Word of God

God gives clear, concise, and pointed commands.

Consider what He told Adam & Eve (**Genesis 2:15-17, 3:11, 16-17**).

Consider what He told the Levites (**Exodus 24, Leviticus 10:1-2, 16:12**).

Consider what He told the Israelites (**Numbers 4:15, II Samuel 6:6-7**).

Consider what He tells the church (**Matthew 26:26-27, I Corinthians 11:23-25, 28-29**).

Consider what He told His disciples (**Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15**).

The Obedience of the Son of God

The Bible makes it clear that obedience is essential to salvation.

Jesus submitted Himself to obedience (**Hebrews 5:9**).

Jesus submitted Himself to baptism (**Matthew 3:15**).

Jesus is our perfect example (**I Peter 2:21, Hebrews 12:1-2**).

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the church (**John 14:26, Acts 2:42**).

The Motivation for Baptism in the Word of God

We must be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**).

We must be baptized in order to wash away our sins (**Acts 22:16**).

We must be baptized in order to experience the death and resurrection of Jesus (**Romans 6:4**).

We must be baptized in order to have the renewing of the Holy Spirit (**Titus 3:4-7**).

We must be baptized in order to have salvation (**Mark 16:15-16**).

VI. The Results of Baptism

We Are Baptized Into Christ

Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27

We Are Saved In Christ

John 14:6, John 10:9

We Are Blessed In Christ

Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, I John 5:11, Ephesians 1:3, II Corinthians 5:17, II Timothy 2:10

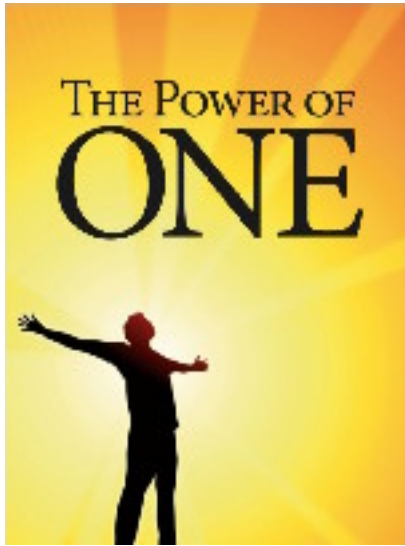
We Experience The Death, Burial, & Resurrection of Christ

John 19:33-34, Matthew 26:28, Revelation 1:5, Romans 6:3-5, Acts 22:16

We Are Added to the Church

Acts 2:38, Acts 2:41, Acts 2:47, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, Romans 8:14-17

Conclusion: Remember the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus. **John 3:1-5** says, "Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." This was fulfilled in **Acts 2:38**! Do not ignore the fact that you are valuable to God! He wants to save you! You are, likewise, valuable to the church. Do you possess the power of one?"



LESSON FOUR: One Lord, One God, One Father

Lesson by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction: Throughout this weekend we have seen the need for one calling, one body, one spirit, one hope, one faith, and one baptism. However, the reason why Paul expresses such unity is seen in verses five and six. We serve One Lord. He is One God and Father. I want us to notice how His authority is supreme. His will must be followed if we seek to be a part of His church. It should also be noted that these foundation principles lead us to see why Paul continued this theme through the rest of this chapter and the next. In every aspect of our life we need unity and harmony. Let's begin by reading our text and we will begin our study.....

Discussion:

I. The Power of One Comes From ONE LORD

What Does It Mean To Have One Lord?

- The terminology shows us that Christ Jesus is sovereign (**Matthew 28:18, John 14:6**).
- God is "a ruler with absolute power or authority" (**Luke 2:29, Acts 4:24, Revelation 6:10**).
- Jesus is "a ruler with absolute power or authority" (**II Timothy 2:21, II Peter 2:1**).
- Who is the Lord of your life? Who is your Master? Who is in control? (**Genesis 1:1**).
- The church belongs to the Lord (**Ephesians 5:22-33**).

Why Only One Lord?

- Only one Lord can have power over us (**Matthew 6:24**).
- Only one Lord can preserve us (**Jude 3**).
- Only one Lord can protect us (**Ephesians 6:10-20**).
- Only one Lord can present us (**I Corinthians 1:10, I Corinthians 6:9-20**).

Why Make Jesus My One Lord?

- Jesus taught His disciples to see Him as Lord (**John 13:13**).
- The apostle Peter proclaimed Jesus as Lord (**Acts 2:36, 10:36, I Peter 1:3**).
- The apostle Paul proclaimed Jesus as Lord (**Acts 9:5, Romans 14:9, I Corinthians 8:6**).
- He is the only one deserving of the title (**Ephesians 4:5, Philippians 2:11**).

What Does It Mean To Make Jesus My One Lord?

- I must not allow myself to become Lord of my life (**Galatians 2:20, Luke 9:23-24**).
- I must not allow my flesh to become Lord of my life (**Galatians 5:19-20, 24**).
- I must not allow my family to become Lord of my life (**Luke 14:15-27, Matthew 12:48**).
- I must not allow my work to become Lord of my life (**Luke 14:15-27, Matthew 19:28-29**).
- I must not allow the world to become Lord of my life (**Galatians 6:14, Matthew 16:24**).
- I must not allow traditions to become Lord of my life (**Matthew 15:9, Colossians 2:6-10**).
- I must not allow brethren to become Lord of my life (**I Corinthians 1:10, III John 9-11**).
- I must allow only Christ to be the Lord of my life (**Luke 6:46, Romans 10:9-10**).

II. The Power of One Comes From ONE GOD

What Does It Mean To Have One God?

- The terminology shows us that God alone can be our God (**Deuteronomy 6:4**)!
- The Bible teaches us that the Godhead is three in One: Father, Spirit, and Son.
- OT references: **Genesis 1:26, Genesis 3:22, Genesis 11:7-9, Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah 48:12-16**
- NT references: **Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14, Hebrews 1:1-2, I John 5:7**
- Notice how Paul shows us this in this text! One Spirit, One Lord, and One God.

Why Only One God?

- Consider the existence of God.
Genesis 1:1, Psalm 90:2, John 8:58, Revelation. 4:8, Exodus 3:13-14, 6:2-3, John 8:58
- Consider the assistance of God.
Exodus 20:2-6, Joshua 2:10-11, Daniel 6:26, Hebrews 11, Deuteronomy 29:5
- Consider the insistence of God.
Exodus 20:2-6, Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29, Matthew 6:33, Exodus 34:14

Why Make God Our One God?

- Would you choose the Amorite god, *Moloch*?
- Would you choose the Canaanite god, *Baal*?
- Would you choose the Roman god, *Mars*?
- No other "god" can measure up to our God (**Romans 3:29-30, Isaiah 43:10**).

What Does It Mean To Make God Our One God?

- God gives us commands, rules to live by (**Genesis 2:15-17**).
- Without rules we will set up false gods (**Psalm 119:1-4, Acts 5:29, II Corinthians 10:4-5**).
- WE MUST HAVE NO OTHER GODS! (**Deuteronomy 5:7, 6:14, 11:28, 13:2, 13:6, 13:13, 17:3, 18:20, 28:14, 28:36, 28:64, 29:26, 30:17**)

III. The Power of One Comes From ONE FATHER

What Does It Mean To Have One Father?

- The terminology shows us that God alone can be our God (**Matthew 6:9**)!
- We can see God as our "Abba" and Heavenly Father.
- This will become evident in the NT (**Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15, and Galatians 4:6**).

Why Only One Father?

- Only one Father has truly given us life (**Genesis 1-3**).
- Only one Father allows us to be born again (**John 3:1-8, I Peter 1:23**).
- Only one Father adopts us into His spiritual family (**Acts 2:42-47, Romans 8:15, Romans 8:23, Romans 9:4, Galatians 4:5, Ephesians 1:5**).
- Only one Father truly deserves the title (**Matthew 23:9**).
- Only one Father accepts us as His children (**I John 4:4, I John 5:2**).
- Only one Father adds us to the royal priesthood (**I Peter 2:9**).

Why Make Him Our One Father?

- Consider **Psalm 103:1-6**
He gives us pardon.
He gives us healing.
He gives us deliverance.
He gives us a coronation.
He gives us satisfaction.
He gives us renewal.
- Consider **Romans 8:14-17**
We are heirs of the promise.
We are heirs of the blessing.
We are heirs of salvation.
We are heirs of the kingdom.
We are heirs of the grace of life.
- Consider **I John 3:1-24**
We get to wear God's name.
We are free from the burden of sin.
We experience the love of God.
We share the love of God with others.
We have a great Christian assurance.

What Does It Mean To Make Him Our One Father?

- If He is our Father.....We can KNOW that that God will always be there.
James 4:8, Genesis 1:1, Revelation 22:21, Romans 1:3, Hebrews 2:3-4, Psalm 14:1, Acts 14:17, Hebrews 11:1-3, 6, Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5, Romans 8:31
- If He is our Father.....We can KNOW that that God will always care for us.
Genesis 1-2, Psalm 23, James 1:17, John 16:27, I John 3:1-10, John 3:16
- If He is our Father.....We can KNOW that that God will always share with us.
John 3:16, Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-35, Hebrews 11:1, Hebrews 11:6
- If He is our Father.....We can KNOW that that God will always be fair with us.
John 3:16, Romans 8, Isaiah 53, I John 5:7, 5:12, John 8:23-24, Acts 4:12, I Timothy 2:5, II Peter 3:9

Conclusion: There is one calling, one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and One God and Father. He is Father of all....He is above all....He is through all....and He is in you all! What a magnificent God! He wants to save you. He wants to help you. Do you possess the power of one?