

The One True Church

- I. Introduction: Today man has turned Christendom into confusion with all the different denominations.
- i. This is not from God
 1. **(1 Cor 14:33)** “For God is not the **author of confusion**, but of **peace**, as in all churches of the saints.”
 - ii. Man has made confusion where God wanted peace!
- b. Today to give remedy to this, religious leaders have tried to be united while divided.
- i. They say that we are all Christians, and all headed for heaven, just different routes. We are all members of Christ’s Church.
 - ii. Jesus says, “Every **kingdom** divided against itself is brought to **desolation**; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:” **(Matt 12:25)**
 1. If the kingdom of God is divided up into denominations then it will not stand.
 2. God’s kingdom is not divided – united by the truth
 3. **(1 John 4:6)** “We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth **us**; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby **know** we the **spirit of truth**, and the **spirit of error**.”
 - a. Either you hear the word of God and in truth or you are not hearing the word of God and in error.
 - iii. Impossible to be united while divided
 1. If not then why doesn’t the Methodist wear the name of the Baptist and accept their doctrine? Because the Methodist believes the Baptist to be wrong!
 - a. If not wrong then truth is subjective and there is no possibility of error
 - i. The Scriptures do teach that there is error
 - b. If wrong then in error! – Not of God
 2. **(2 Cor 6:14)** “Be ye not unequally yoked together with **unbelievers**: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
 - a. We can have no fellowship with error
- c. Both that don’t agree can’t be right, either one is wrong and the other is right or they’re both wrong.
- i. Both can’t be on the road to heaven and not agree – Must be of the same mind – if not then we are walking in different directions
 1. **(Phil 3:16-17)** “Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, **let us walk by the same rule**, let us **mind the same thing**. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”
- d. Being united while divided is not possible – trick, a pretense, no more united than a Methodist is a Baptist.

- e. Paul condemned division and party names
 - i. **(1 Cor 1:10-13)** “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”
 - 1. Paul’s remedy is to speak the same thing – No Party Name
 - 2. Perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment – How?
 - a. By accepting God’s word as our soul authority for doctrine – that means speaking when he speaks and being silent where he is silent. Do the things he commands and leave along the things he doesn’t approve of.

II. The One True Church

- a. Christ promised to build one church – His Church
 - i. **(Matt 16:18)** “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- b. Paul tells us that there is one Church
 - i. **(Eph 1:22-23)** “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the **church**, which is his **body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
 - 1. Paul equates the church with his body – one and the same institution
 - ii. **(Eph 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.”
 - 1. One body = One church
 - 2. How many bodies does Christ have?

III. One Authority

- a. **(Eph 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.”
- b. Jesus Christ has all authority
 - i. **(Matt 28:18)** “All **power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
- c. Jesus is the Head of the Church
 - i. **(Eph 1:22)** “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the **head** over all things to the church,”
- d. We must hear Jesus

- i. (**Heb 1:1-2**) “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”
- ii. (**Heb 2:3-4**) “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”
 - 1. We hear Jesus for Authority and those that He sent – The Apostles

IV. One in Faith

- a. (**Eph 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. Paul declares not only is there one body, but that there’s also one faith.
 - 1. (**Jude 3**) “...earnestly contend for **the faith** which was **once delivered** unto the saints.”
 - ii. One Faith means that there is one doctrine and therefore one gospel
- b. Doctrine is the same as the Gospel and the same as the Faith
 - i. (**Rom 6:17-18**) “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have **obeyed** from the heart that form of **doctrine** which was **delivered you**. Being then made free from sin, **ye became the servants of righteousness.**”
 - 1. By obedience to the doctrine, we became free from sin
 - ii. (**Rom 1:16-17**) “For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ**: for it is the **power of God unto salvation** to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.”
 - 1. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation
 - 2. The righteousness of God is revealed from faith (system of Doctrine) to faith
 - iii. If we are saved by the gospel, then we are saved by the doctrine.
- c. Since there is one doctrine – Can a church teach error? – Of Course
 - i. (**1 Tim 4:1-3**) “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, **that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”
 - ii. (**2 Tim 4:3-4**) “For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to

themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the **truth**, and shall be **turned unto fables**.”

1. There's either truth or fables – They will turn from sound doctrine
- d. Doctrine and Gospel is Important
 - i. Those that obeyed the gospel on the day of Pentecost continued in the Apostle's Doctrine
 1. (**Acts 2:42**) “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' **doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
 - ii. Those that teach contrary are to be marked
 1. (**Rom 16:17**) “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the **doctrine** which ye have learned; and avoid them.”
 - iii. We are exhorted to teach no other doctrine
 1. (**1 Tim 1:3**) “As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,”
 - iv. If we teach another we are considered accursed – excommunicated
 1. (**Gal 1:6-8**) “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be **accursed**.”
 - a. “αναθεμα” - “a (religious) ban or (concretely) excommunicated (thing or person):”
- e. The one true church of Christ has one doctrine and holds to it
 - i. This doctrine comes from the word of God
 1. (**2 Tim 3:16-17**) “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
 2. (**Rom 10:17**) “So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the **word of God**.”

V. One Worship

- a. (**Eph 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. Not only is there one body, one Authority, one faith, but there is also One God. This shows one way of Worship
 1. God is the one to be worshipped
 - a. (**Matt 4:10**) “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve.”

2. Since there is One God then there's one worship – His Way
- b. We must worship God in the way He will accept
 - i. (**John 4:23-24**) “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshippers** shall **worship** the Father in **spirit** and in **truth**: for the **Father seeketh** such to **worship him**. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must worship** him in **spirit** and in **truth**.”
 1. Spirit – Not in ritualism
 2. Truth – As God has directed in his word
 - a. (**John 17:17**) “Sanctify them through thy **truth**: thy **word is truth**.”
 - ii. Example of Cain and Abel
 1. (**Gen 4:3-7**) “And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had **respect unto Abel and to his offering**: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? **If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?** and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”
 - a. Why did God have respect unto Abel and not Cain?
 - i. Cain didn't do the command that God gave him – didn't do well
 - ii. Why didn't he do well
 1. (**Heb 11:4**) “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.”
 2. How do we get faith? (**Rom 10:17**)
 - a. If by faith then must have been commanded
 3. Therefore Abel did what God Commanded and Cain did not
 - iii. We must do all things “by Faith” – (**Rom 14:23**) “For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”
 1. Can't have the attitude that since God didn't say we couldn't do something that it must be ok
 2. We must do what is revealed and nothing more and nothing less
 - c. The one true church has only one way of worship – they way approved by God in His word.

VI. One way for entrance

- a. (**Eph 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. Not only is there one Body, one Authority, one faith, one Worship, but now we see one Entrance
- b. You can't join the true Church – God adds you to it
 - i. (**Acts 2:47**) “The Lord **added** to the **church** daily such as should be **saved**.”
 - 1. He adds you when you become ‘saved’
- c. How does one become saved?
 - i. (**Acts 2:40**) “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save** yourselves from this untoward generation.”
 - 1. What did the multitude do?
 - ii. (**Acts 2:41**) “Then they that gladly **received his word** were **baptized**: and the same day there were **added** unto them about three thousand souls.”
- d. What word did they receive?
 - i. (**Acts 2:38**) “Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
- e. What were they added to by receiving this command?
 - i. That One True Church
- f. Why did Peter and the eleven preach this?
 - i. Because Christ commanded them to
 - 1. (**Mark 16:15,16**) “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”