

REVIVAL NEWS  
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## DECLARING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD BULLETIN – ARTICLE 1.

# THAT THEY MAY BE ONE – PART ONE

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### **The Prayer of Jesus**

When Jesus prayed the night before He went to the Cross His prayer was, *“that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me...”* John 17:21. The result of becoming one, in the same manner that Jesus and the Father are one, is that *the world may believe that God sent Jesus!* In these days many are striving to see the outworking of this prayer.

### **Unity is not “agreeing to disagree”**

There are many “unity” movements, based around prayer, that have begun with the focus of drawing leaders from all denominational backgrounds to work together. However, very few leaders have become untied from their denominations, and have thus kept the divisions and walls even though gathering together once a week for prayer and even partnering in community events.

The Father and Son did not just agree to disagree on some issues! They were and are ONE! God is calling us into His Oneness. It is time for us to measure ourselves by the Word of God and not settle for a superficial unity of working together while not being in real agreement together.

### **There is One**

The apostle Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit gave us the Word by which we can measure the extent of how effectively we are walking as one. He said, *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were 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”* Ephesians 4:4-6. Paul lists seven “ones”.

### **Seven “ones” to measure our unity**

There are seven measures of oneness that we are to be walking in. These seven “ones” are absolutes. There is no room for disagreement. This is a complete (seven) revelation of the One God in the One body. This is the revelation of how we walk as one with God and each other. It is by coming to understand these “ones”.

### **All ministries are to be founded on these “ones”**

The ministry gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (**Ephesians 4:11**) are mentioned in the context of these “ones”. All ministry is to be on a foundation of knowing “*there is One*”. All ministers are to minister to the **One body by the One Spirit, establishing us in the One hope, teaching the One Lord, bringing us to the obedience of the One faith, immersing us in the One baptism, so we can know the One God and Father of us all.**

Ministry is to build up this One body into the “*fullness of Christ*” who is the “*fullness of the Godhead*” (**Ephesians 4:13, Colossians 2:9**). We are not to be building our own denominational churches, but labouring to see Jesus’ body “*grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ*” **Ephesians 4:15**. The result of this ministry will be that we will be one with God and each other and the world will know Jesus is the One sent by God!

### **THERE IS ONE BODY**

The first “one” mentioned is that there is “*one body*”. We must come into agreement that there is only one body. This body is not made up of lots of parts that disagree with each other. In the context of people following particular ministers over and against others Paul writes, “*Is Christ divided?*” **1 Corinthians 1:13**.

There is no division in Christ. We need to ask ourselves, ‘*are we in Christ?*’ “*For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ*” **1 Corinthians 12:12**. This verse says that Christ is actually one body! Christ is one many-membered body!

### **Set in the body to function**

“*But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased*” **1 Corinthians 12:18**. God is in charge of placing us as a member in His body where He wants us. How does He “*set you in the body*”? “*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...*” **1 Corinthians 12:13**. Three of the “ones” were mentioned in this one verse.

Through baptism, by the Spirit, in water into Christ, you become a member of this one body. Membership is not through signing a membership form! It is not through paying a tithe! It is through being baptised into Christ that you are now a member of His body!

### **True ministers connect the Body to the Head**

The role of ministry is to “*equip [set in order] the saints*” properly connecting them to the “*Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God*” **Ephesians 4:12, Colossians 2:19**. It is the job of the ministries to help every member of the Body know their place in the Body and be rightly related to the Head, Christ!

- ➔ Do you know your placement by God in the one Body?
- ➔ Is your identity as a member of the Body of Christ?

## THERE IS ONE SPIRIT

We are to ***“endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”*** Ephesians 4:3. There is only one Spirit and as we all *strain every nerve* (the meaning of “endeavour”) to keep one with the Spirit, we will be kept in the bond of peace. If we have learnt to ***“live in the Spirit [born again], let us also walk [in step with] the Spirit”*** Galatians 5:25. If we all learn to not only live but also to **walk** in the Spirit, we will find ourselves more and more functioning as one body by the One Spirit. Let’s be led by the Spirit together!

## Who is the one Spirit?

Let us look at several descriptions of the one Spirit in this one body.

He is the:

- ***“Spirit of God”*** – Romans 8:9
- ***“Spirit of Christ”*** – Romans 8:9
- ***“Christ in you”*** – Romans 8:10
- ***“Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead”*** - Romans 8:11
- ***“God is Spirit”*** – John 4:24
- ***“Spirit of your Father”*** – Matthew 10:20
- ***“Spirit of Jesus Christ”*** – Philippians 1:19
- ***“Spirit of the Lord”*** [literally in the Greek “Lord Spirit”] – 2 Corinthians 3:18
- ***“Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”*** – Romans 8:2
- ***“Holy Spirit”*** – Acts 2:38
- ***“Spirit of truth”*** – John 14:17
- ***“Eternal Spirit”*** – Hebrews 9:14
- ***“Spirit of adoption/sonship”*** – Romans 8:15

There are other names given to the one Spirit mentioned in the Scripture. All of this helps us understand who this one Spirit is and how to receive Him in our lives as the one body that He inhabits! Have you received the one Spirit? Are you walking in step with Him, endeavouring to keep one with Him? Sons of God are those who are ***“led by the Spirit of God”*** Romans 8:14.

## THERE IS ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING

The gospel releases hope! There is one hope that we are all called to. We need the ***“the eyes of our understanding enlightened to know the hope of His calling”*** Ephesians 1:18. We will be presented holy ***“and blameless and above reproach in His sight – if...we are not moved away from the hope of the gospel”*** Colossians 1:22-23. To be presented faultless, being like Jesus in perfection is our hope: ***“but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like***

*Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure” 1 John 3:2-3.*

## What is the hope?

- The hope is *“the hope of glory”* Romans 5:2.
- *“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil”* Hebrews 6:19.
- The hope we have is to fully experience the glory which is the complete revelation of *“Christ in us; the hope of glory”* (Col.1:27).
- Our hope is in the complete transformation of our lives into the *“image of His Son”* Romans 8:29.
- We are to be *“looking for the blessed hope and appearance of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ”* Titus 2:13.
- Our hope is to see His glory appear and manifest not only to us but *in us* – *“for I consider that the present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us”* Romans 8:18.
- The hope of the gospel is that *“creation itself will be delivered from its bondage to corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God”* Romans 8:21.
- The hope is the fullness of the adoption coming to pass, *“the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope...”* Romans 8:23-24.

Do you preach the one hope?

Is the one hope that is presented in the Scriptures your goal and destiny in life?

## THE CHURCH MUST BE ESTABLISHED IN THIS ONE HOPE OF OUR CALLING!

## THERE IS ONE LORD

### Yahweh is Lord

There is only one Lord in this body. The word **“Lord”** in Hebrew which always refers to God is **“Adonai”**. It means the Lord in all His glorious attributes. It means the Supreme Authority, the ultimate ruler. The Lord in the Old Testament was Yahweh. Abraham called Yahweh **“Lord [Adonai]”** five times in his conversation with Him in **Genesis 18:3, 27, 30, 31, 32**.

### Jesus is both Lord and Christ

When Peter was preaching on the day of Pentecost, the climax of his preaching was **“Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”** Acts 2:36. God made this Jesus **Lord!** The Lord Yahweh and the Lord Jesus Christ are One Lord! This is really declaring that Jesus is God, Yahweh Himself, manifesting in the flesh as the Lord!

## Who is the One Lord?

Let us look at who the Scriptures refer to as the Lord:

- ***“Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father” – Philippians 2:11***
- ***“Now the Lord is the Spirit...” – 2 Corinthians 3:17***
- ***“I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth...” – Matthew 11:25***

This is the revelation of the one Lord. The Lord is God in all His fullness! He is ***“Jesus Christ...Lord of all” Acts 10:36***. He is ***“the Lord of glory” 1 Corinthians 2:8***. ***“In Him [Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” – Colossians 2:9***.

## We are to confess the One Lord

The apostle Paul wrote that if we ***“confess the Lord Jesus”***, believing God raised Him from the dead, ***“we will be saved” Romans 10:9***. The Spirit of God enables us to make this confession for, ***“No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” 1 Corinthians 12:3***. It is a revelation by the Spirit. The power of confessing Jesus as Lord releases the power of God unto salvation!

## The cosmic confession

There is coming a day when ***“every tongue will confess, Jesus Christ is Lord” Philippians 2:11***. At the same time as this, ***“every knee shall bow” (Phil.2:10)***. Jesus the Messiah is the Supreme authority of the universe! Every knee must bow to Him. Things in heaven, on earth and beneath the earth will all confess the Lordship of Jesus the Messiah! When the One Body is openly and boldly confessing Jesus as the One Lord, all of creation will be prepared for this cosmic confession!