

DECLARING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD BULLETIN – ARTICLE 2

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE – PART TWO

Nicholas Jackson

THERE IS ONE FAITH

In the church that Jesus is building there is *“one faith”*. This is quite shocking when we see the major doctrinal divisions people have camped behind. A true test of becoming one as Jesus and the Father are one, is our willingness to repent from wrong doctrine and believe the Word of God as it is written.

A sign of a mature church

One of the signs of a mature church arising is that *“we all come to the unity of the faith”* Ephesians 4:13. *The faith* is speaking of the truth of the gospel. Jude exhorts us *“to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”* v.3. The faith is *“the faith of Jesus”* (Rev.14:12) and *“Through Him [Christ Jesus] we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name”* Romans 1:5. The name of Jesus is glorified by nations becoming obedient to **the faith!** The work of discipleship is to bring nations to obey *the faith!* This is why Jesus told us to, *make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...* Matthew 28:19-20. The faith is everything that Jesus commanded us to observe!

The doctrine of God is living and carries authority

The one faith we are to adhere to is *“all that I [Jesus] commanded you...”* Matthew 28:20. Jesus said, *“My doctrine is not Mine but His who sent Me”* John 7:16. Jesus spoke the doctrine He received from His Father. This doctrine was alive, not a list of doctrinal statements. In fact, the doctrine of Christ Jesus was so powerful that the people were amazed at the authority it came with saying, *“What new doctrine is this? For with authority, He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him”* Mark 1:27.

The faith is the apostles' doctrine

The night before Jesus went to the Cross He prayed, *“For I have given them [the apostles] the words which You [Father] have given Me...”* John 17:8. Jesus was faithful to deliver the faith (the doctrine, the words) He had received from the Father to His apostles that He had raised.

After the day of Pentecost, the early church *“continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...”* Acts 2:42. The one faith is the apostles' doctrine.

THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE BRINGS US INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

The apostle John writes that he and the apostles had seen, handled and touched the *“Word of life”* and *“the life was manifested...”* 1 John 1:1-2. This Word of life was what the apostles *“declared to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ”* 1 John 1:3.

True apostolic doctrine is the **Word of life**. When the Word of life is declared, preached and taught, it brings us into fellowship with the Father and the Son. John also calls this the *“doctrine of Christ”* by saying *“he who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son”* 2 John 9. The apostles in the early church *“did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ”* Acts 5:42.

Father and Son making a home in us through the faith

Through faithfully bringing this doctrine, *the one faith*, they brought the early church into fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus the Messiah! This is a great mystery! Before Jesus died and rose again, He said, *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him”* John 14:23. The Father and Son inhabit the ones who obey the word, the doctrine of Christ!

APOSTLES' DOCTRINE BRINGS US INTO ONENESS WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER

When Jesus prayed that we may be one He said *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their [the apostles'] word...”* John 17:20. Jesus was not simply praying for *believers*, but He was praying for those who would believe in Him according to the *apostles' doctrine*.

These were the words they had received from Jesus, and those words came from the Father! When we believe in Jesus according to what the apostles preached and taught then *“we will 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 doctrine we receive has a direct impact on the oneness we have with each other and God. Our foundation is not a denominational set of doctrines to believe. We are to receive the *apostles' doctrine, the doctrine of Christ, the faith of Jesus, the words of the Father given through Jesus to His apostles!*

It is only as we come back to *the one faith* that we will be in true oneness with God and each other.

It is time to humble ourselves, receive true apostles and come back to ***the faith that once for all delivered to the saints!***

Do you receive the Word as written?
Are you willing to come out of denominational doctrine and obey
the ***apostles' doctrine?***

THERE IS ONE BAPTISM

The *one baptism* is referring to the immersion we have into Christ through water. When we understand the one baptism, we see how essential it is to bring us into true oneness as the Body of Christ.

Baptism is into the name

Baptism is **not** to become a member of a particular church group or denomination. Baptism is *“into the name [Person] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” Matthew 28:19*. Baptism brings us into the very Person of God, the fullness of the Godhead. The **name** is singular, one.

That name Peter declared on the day of Pentecost when he said *“let every one of you be baptised into the name of Jesus Christ...” Acts 2:38*.

**WE ARE BAPTISED INTO THE PERSON, THE NAME OF JESUS
THE MESSIAH.
HE IS THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD IN THE FLESH
(1 Tim. 3:16)**

By being baptised into Jesus Christ, we are baptised into the fullness of God and thus are one in His name, *“Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are” John 17:11*.

What is this baptism?

The *one baptism*:

- Places us *“into Christ Jesus”, “into His death”, “buried with Him through baptism”, “raised...to walk in newness of life”, “freed from sin” Romans 6:3-4,7*
- *“saves us...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”, “not the removal of the filth of the flesh [the blood removes the filth of the flesh], it is “the answer of a good conscience toward God” 1Peter 3:21*
- Is done *“by one Spirit”* [baptism is a spiritual reality, not a symbol or ceremony], *“into one body” 1 Corinthians 12:13*. We are not members of a particular church or denomination but are now members of the Body of Christ through the *one baptism!*
- Places us *“into Christ”* enabling us to *“put on Christ” Galatians 3:27*
- Is done *“through faith in the working of God who raised Him from the dead” Colossians 2:12*

Have you received the one baptism?

**Have you been immersed into Jesus Christ,
the fullness of God?**

ONE GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL

The six *ones* that have preceded are all to lead us into the knowledge of the **One God and Father of us all!** *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” 1 Timothy 2:5.* The purpose of the gospel is for us to receive eternal life and *“this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” John 17:3.*

One God

The revelation of God is that He is one! *“Hear, O Israel: YAHWEH our God, YAHWEH is one” Deuteronomy 6:4.* This One God is revealed in the Scriptures:

- *“yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him...” 1 Corinthians 8:6*
- *“our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ” – Titus 2:13*
- *“the Word was God...and the Word became flesh” – John 1:1,14*
- *“God is Spirit” John 4:24*
- *“God was manifested in the flesh” 1 Timothy 3:16*
- *“His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life” 1 John 5:20*
- *“And the name of the Son will be called...Mighty God” Isaiah 9:6*

The Father

He is the *“God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” Ephesians 1:3.* Jesus said, *“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” John 14:6.*

The revelation of the Father is in the Son, Jesus Christ. *“He that acknowledges the Son has the Father also” 1 John 2:23.* The Father is revealed in the Scriptures as:

- *“the Father of mercies” 2 Corinthians 1:3* – the source of all comfort and mercy
- *“the Father of Lights” James 1:17* – from Him comes down every good and perfect gift
- *“the Father of glory” Ephesians 1:17* – the source of revelation, wisdom and understanding
- *“the Father of spirits” Hebrews 12:9* – He disciplines us
- *“And the name of the Son will be called...Everlasting Father” Isaiah 9:6* – the mystery of God
- *“I and My Father are one” John 10:30* – the manifestation of **Deuteronomy 6:4**
- *“If you have seen Me [Jesus] you have seen the Father” John 14:9* – the Father is seen in the Son

Paul writes that these ones bring us to the revelation that the **one God and Father** is:

1. ***“of us all”*** – He is our Father, the Father of us. ***“Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us that we should be called children of God”*** 1 John 3:1
2. ***“who is above all”*** – He has all authority and power. ***“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me [Jesus] on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne”*** Revelation 3:21. We are invited to share His power and sit on His throne in Christ!
3. ***“through all”*** – We see His handiwork through all things, our eyes opened to Him being through all. ***“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”*** Romans 11:36
4. ***“and in you all”*** – Did you know that the Father is in you! ***“If anyone loves Me [Jesus], he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come and make our home with him”*** John 14:23. ***“I [Jesus] in them, and You [Father] in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may believe that You have sent Me”*** John 17:23.

**Are you growing to know God as your God and Father?
Do you see the Father in the Son?**

**LET US MEASURE OURSELVES AND BE FOUNDED ON THESE
SEVEN “ONES”.**

THIS IS THE MEASURE OF TRUE ONENESS IN THE BODY.

**AS WE GROW IN THE REALITY AND EXPERIENCE OF THESE
“ONES”,
WE WILL BE FOUND IN HIM AND WE WILL TRULY BE ONE!**