

One > Infinity

ONE

Everything in the universe is ONE: that is what the book of Ephesians is telling us. The fundamental things of life that concern people like a job, security, purpose, and meaning are one, or can be, with the Oneness of God.

Jesus expressed this goal of oneness for His first disciples and for Christians of all times when He prayed: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

(John 17:20-21 KJV)

God is One in Three Persons, and it is this very nature of God that also provides a unity for Christians and for the church of all God's people. Ephesians expresses this more compactly than any other part of the Bible. In Ephesians 4 clustered around the Three Persons of the Godhead--the one Holy Spirit, the one Lord Christ, and the one God the Father--are those factors that also provide unity among Christians.

"There is one body and one Spirit, as there is also one hope held out in God's call to you; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (vs. 4-6 NEV)

With God the Holy Spirit comes the one body which is the church, the one Christian hope and the one Christian call; with God the Lord Jesus Christ comes the one Christian faith and the one Christian baptism; and with God the Father, there comes the Fatherhood of all Creation, the Supreme Ruler of the universe ("over all"), the omnipresence of God ("through all"), and the "in all."

These few verses from Ephesians are both a concise statement of the most fundamental doctrines of Christianity and lively, practical realities that bring a unity to the Christian life and church. And this in only three verses of the book of Ephesians: there is more, much more! Dr. Ray Summers, professor of religion at Southwestern Seminary and Baylor, in his commentary on Ephesians calls it "the loftiest expression of the basic minimum of Christianity." W. O. Carver calls it the "greatest piece of writing in all history."

Ephesians can not be understood apart from the other 65 books of the Bible; but if a person with the "inner eye" understood only Ephesians, he would be illuminated on enough of the wisdom of God to live the Christian life and to find its relationship to the whole universe.

God's Revelation is also ONE. What hidden mysteries or secret wisdom God has made known in the Gospel of John is consistent with that of Ephesians; and the book of Genesis with both; and so on with the whole Bible of 66 books. As one person has said, "Read your Bible. It will throw a lot of light on the commentaries." And as Bernard Ramm in his book on the science of hermeneutics (the science of Biblical interpretation) so poignantly states: the way to understand scripture is by comparison with other scriptures.

The World God made and the Book God wrote is also ONE. God made the World--"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1 KJV)--and God the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (II Timothy 3:16 KJV) Further, the World God made will not contradict the Book God wrote: the problem is in our lack of understanding of both the World and the Book.

God expects us to fully comprehend this ONENESS through Christ. Christ makes sense out of the total Bible, and He makes sense out of the total universe. Christ was there when God the Father first made the world. As the prologue of John tells us: "In the beginning was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same

was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:1-3 KJV)

Colossians summarizes it in this manner:

"Who (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church..." (1:15-18 KJV)

Christ, the gospel, the cross, and the church are at the heart of God's plan to implement His purpose--all bringing a unity or ONENESS: "...of bringing to light how this hidden purpose was to be put into effect. It was hidden for long ages in God the creator of the universe, in order that now, through the church, the wisdom of God in all its varied forms might be made known to the rulers and authorities in the realms of heaven. This is in accord with his age-long purpose, which he achieved in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Eph. 3:9-11 NEV)

I John 3:20 tells us that God is greater than the human heart and conscience with natural implications that God is greater than even the collective American Conscience and the Muslim Conscience. Since God is One in 3 Persons, if you do not see and admit those 3 Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, then obviously you have the wrong god. "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." (I John 3:20)

One of the many reasons that One is greater than infinity is even beyond God being One in 3 Persons, He wants Christians to all be One, and rather to all be One in Christ. In the Garden before crucifixion, Jesus expressed a prayer for all Christians everywhere and of all generations to be One: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:20,21)