

## *The Foundation of our Unity*

1. Truth has a unity that is simple but profound...
  2. We are commanded to live by Truth
  3. There are many counterfeits but only one Truth
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## I. THE UNITY OF TRUTH

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### (1) ONE BODY

1. **This is the body of Christ—which is His church (Eph 1:22-23)**
  - a) The Bible Describes the Church with many pictures—but ONE Family...
  - b) Describes as a BRIDE, KINGDOM, NATION, TEMPLE and Living, Growing BODY.
  - c) Christ is the Head of the Church and Savior of the Body (Eph 5:23-25)
  - d) There is only ONE Body and ONE Bride—the Church.
2. **This is speaking of the Church in the ‘Universal’ sense...**
  - a) **The body of saved believers in all the world (1 Corinthians 12:12–14)**
  - b) We are all baptized into ONE Body—Into Christ...
  - c) There are Many members but only ONE Body in Christ (Romans 12:4–5)
  - d) But only ONE Body of Christ which is all the saved in all the world.
3. **Jesus knows who are His—His Sheep Hear His Voice and they Follow Him.**
  - a) Example: When Jesus sent a message to the 7 churches of Asia...
  - b) He Commended those who were faithful...
  - c) He Encouraged those who were struggling—to stay faithful
  - d) He also Warned those who were not faithful—to Repent...
  - e) But He knew who were His and who were not (Revelation 3:1–6)
    - V.4 “You have a few names...”.
  - **not everyone in a local congregation are in the Universal Church.**
    - Diotrefes refused to let John into the church (in a local sense) (3 John 9–11)
    - v.5 “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments...”
    - v.5 “and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life...”
4. **The ONE Body of Christ—**
  - a) are the saved who’s names are written in the Book of Life...
  - b) All the saved of all time here on earth and those gone on before us.

### (2) ONE SPIRIT

1. **The word Spirit is used in several different ways...**
  - a) You have a spirit created in the image of God.
  - b) The inner person of the heart. “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.”
  - c) The characteristics of a person “a forgiving spirit”
  - d) The unseen influence in a culture. “the spirit of the age”
  - e) The supernatural spirits in the spiritual realm such as “unclean spirits”

## 2. But The ONE Spirit is the Holy Spirit— the Spirit of God

a) ONE Lord, and One God, there is only One Spirit.

b) (Ephesians 2:18; 21-22)

c) (1 Corinthians 12:13-14)

## 3. There is only ONE Spirit—but there are many deceiving spirits (1 Jn 4:1-3)

a) *“After the prophets, the false prophets; after the apostles, the false apostles; after the Christ, the anti-christ.” (Chrysostom)*

b) And After the Holy Spirit is the deceiving spirit of darkness (Eph 2:2 ESV)

c) (2 Corinthians 4:3–4)

## 4. THE ONE SPIRIT is the Holy Spirit of God

a) We have been given STRONG Warning! (1 Corinthians 3:16–17)

b) God’s Spirit helps our spirit (Ephesians 3:16)

c) Strengthening Us with Spiritual Power (Romans 8:11–14)

### (3) ONE HOPE

#### 1. We all need Hope... Hopelessness leads to despair.

a) Viktor Frankel was a psychologist who survived the NAZI concentration camps

b) In the horror of those camps he noticed that whenever someone lost hope or gave up hope, they were dead within hours or days.

c) Hope was the last thing that kept people alive...

(1) Frankl realized Man’s will to live was not based on Pleasure (as Freud claimed)

People persevered under extreme suffering.

(2) Man’s will to live was not based on Power (as Nietzsche claimed)

People persevered without any hope for power.

(3) Frankl believed Man’s Will to Live was not Pleasure or Power — But Meaning it was man’s search for meaning that kept him going...

#### 2. But the Bible tells us it is even deeper that...

##### God placed Eternity Into Our Hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:9 NIV)

a) We have a light within us from God...

b) a Spirit that hungers and thirsts to be accepted by God and forgiven

c) A Hope of eternal life with God who made us.

#### 3. The Hope of Eternal Life in Christ (Titus 1:2)

a) *“in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began”*

#### 4. This is the Hope of Life After Death...

a) But Now We Have This Hope because of Jesus (Titus 3:5–7)

b) The Hope of Heaven (Colossians 1:5)

### (4) ONE LORD

#### 1. One Lord — Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 8:6 ESV)

#### 2. Jesus is Lord... and many have died by not renouncing Jesus as Lord

a) In the First Century, Emperor Worship was enforced by Roman Law

b) Anyone who did not declare Caesar as Lord was banished, imprisoned or killed

#### 3. Jesus warned us not to be deceived (Matthew 24:4–14; 1 John 2:22)

#### 4. Our Confession of Faith is that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9)

- a) A Confession ALL Will Make one day (Philippians 2:11)

### (5) ONE FAITH

#### 1. We each have our own individual faith...

but there is only ONE Faith—that is called THE FAITH (Jude 3)

- a) The Faith Once For All delivered to the saints  
b) We are to contend earnestly for The Faith—Because some try to change it (Jude 4)

#### 2. Some will depart from THE FAITH (1 Timothy 4:1)

- a) When people try to merge the True Faith with the godless ideologies of the age  
b) They create a counterfeit faith

#### 3. We Must Guard the Faith (1 Timothy 6:20–21)

#### 4. We are to Keep the Faith (2 Timothy 4:7)

### (6) ONE BAPTISM

#### 1. If There is ONE Baptism... why do we find different baptisms in the NT?

- Baptism of John • Baptism of Holy Spirit • Baptism of Fire • Baptism for dead
- Baptism into Moses (Red Sea crossing) • Baptism into Christ. • Which one?

#### 2. The ONE Baptism is Commanded by Christ to ALL Nations (Matt 28:18-20)

- a) NOTICE: It is the Baptism in name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

#### 3. The ONE Baptism in which we are United with Christ (Romans 6:3–4)

- a) United with Christ in His Death... in His Resurrection... in New Life!

#### 4. The ONE Baptism into Christ (Galatians 3:26–28)

#### 5. The ONE Baptism Commanded by Jesus to be saved! (Mark 16:16)

### (7) ONE GOD

#### 1. GOD IS THE FATHER OF ALL: The Love of God...

- a) We no longer approach God as a criminal going before a Judge  
but as a child going before our Father.

#### 2. HE IS ABOVE ALL: The Power of God.

God is above all... No Matter how bad things can seem,  
Be Still and Know that God is in Control!

#### 3. HE IS THROUGH ALL: The Providence of God.

God created all and He is working His eternal plan through it all.

#### 4. HE IS IN ALL: The Presence of God. God created the universe to fulfill His plan.

Not to wind up like a clock and let it run w/ no more interest or interaction.  
The Creator of Time and Space—Entered Time and Space to suffer and die  
for us—so we can live with Him for eternity!

### CONCLUSION:

#### 1. These 7 Ones are the foundation of our unity in the Spirit...

#### 2. None can be left out—Every One of them Are Essential (Romans 11:36)